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Near East/South Asia Report

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2 MARCH 1987

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EXILED OPPOSITION FIGURES TO RETURN TO TUNISIA

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Jan 87 p 18

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Tunis confirmed that former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Masmoudi, who has been living in the French capital for several years, will return to Tunisia within days.

These sources told the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD yesterday that Masmoudi's return "will come within the framework of political relaxation which Tunisia will experience and which will include the return of former Minister of Planning Ahmed Ben Salah, who was permitted to return on the condition that he pledge to live in his birthplace, Moknine, and that he not engage in any political activity.

The sources also reported that former Interior Minister Driss Guiga, who was sentenced, in absentia, to 10 years imprisonment and who is currently living in London, had filed an appeal against the sentence and that he may return to Tunisia within the coming days so that his hearing will be conducted pursuant to this appeal.

The newspaper's sources think that it is likely that trade-union leader Habib Achour will soon be released and that all opposition figures living abroad, with the exception of former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and Islamic Tendency Movement leaders, will be permitted to return to Tunisia.

Whereas these sources reported that Masmoudi had indeed returned, KUNA explained that the former minister is still in Paris where its correspondent contacted him. In a statement to the news agency, Masmoudi said that he is "free to return to Tunisia whenever I want" and that "every citizen is delighted at every sign that indicates that the country is being opened up to all of its sons."

He added that he indeed intends to return to Tunisia immediately after he finishes writing his two books. The first is on the modern history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the second is on the final stage of the Tunisian liberation struggle and the stage of building the independent Tunisian state.

As for former Interior Minister Driss Guiga, he informed KUNA yesterday that he had submitted a request to the Tunisian Ministry of Justice to review the sentence issued against him in 1984. This is the first legal step to reverse this sentence and to regain his full civil rights.

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER MABROUK

PM211421 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Jan 87 pp 20-21

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Hedi Mabrouk, the Tunisian foreign minister in Prime Minister Rachid Sfar's government, is seen by some people as an indication of Tunisia's moving toward the West and turning its back on the Arabs, in view of his close ties with French culture and the fact that he is a former Tunisian ambassador to Paris. AL-MAJALLAH met with the Tunisian foreign minister and asked him about the truth of this and about subsequent changes. He said: The changes that have taken place in the government organs have no major bearing on the political approach because Tunisia's policy is derived from the fixed principles of President Habib Bourguiba, who has long experience in international politics. A change might take place in the work method when people are replaced, but the objectives have not changed and the policy being pursued is still firm. For instance, I succeeded Beji Caid Essebsi, who had a particular work method different from mine. I mean that the style of the diplomatic process might change but the essence is still the same.

[Ghurab] There is a prevailing belief that the change is in favor of a move toward the West.

[Mabrouk] Just the opposite. During the crucial battle President Bourguiba turned to his Arab brothers, not to the United States, or Germany, or France. There is no reason to make us change this policy, and the prevailing belief is based on assumptions that are unfounded, that are indeed a falsification of the truth. Some of the figures that have been removed speak as if they are the defenders of the Arabic language, religion, and Arab values, as if the Tunisian Government and people are not interested in Arabism. The world will in the near future witness a stronger Tunisian approach that will move closer to the Arab world. If in the past Tunisian-Arab policy was based on financial aid which Tunisia used to obtain whenever an official visited an Arab country, this policy will change. The Tunisian approach to the Arabs will be based on truthful fraternal feelings, not on a material basis. President Bourguiba made an amendment to the education system stipulating an increase in the teaching

of Arabic, and at the same time he recommended the intensified teaching of foreign languages. The results of last July's examinations clearly showed that the previous system was wrong and unsound, as the success ratio did not exceed 12 percent. We in Tunisia are firmly affiliated to the Arab World, but our interest and the Arab nation's interest require, in general, that we do not abandon the technological field available in the West without benefiting from it. Any Arab is capable of preserving his distinctive character and nobility of origin while benefiting from the outside world, in order to refine and develop his character so as to reach the level of the advanced world.

[Ghurab] But there are some figures in the Tunisian Government whose Western-oriented stand is viewed as being at the expense of their Arab outlook.

[Mabrouk] Let us be frank on this point as I might be the person referred to here, as foreign minister, just because I was my country's ambassador to France. In fact, my presence in France strengthened my attachment to Arabism. The efforts and activities that I undertook within the framework of the Arab diplomatic corps in Paris prove this. If this accusation is directed at ministers other than myself, I would like to assure you that they all also believe in Bourguiba's policy which has been in existence since the beginning of his struggle against the French.

[Ghurab] How do you view the current Arab situation in your capacity as foreign minister?

[Mabrouk] Frankly, I am not at all satisfied for a number of reasons, most important among which are Arab differences and contradictory stands. Nevertheless, I am not pessimistic but concerned, because crises lead to the awakening and strengthening of willpower and urge people to employ all their capabilities and resources to extricate themselves from these crises. We as Arabs have reached a situation full of difficulties and problems that require the awakening of consciences, unity of ranks, and an attempt to find a common denominator in respect of fundamental issues such as, for instance, the Palestinian problem and the defense of our nation and values, which are threatened by all trends. Probably the quickest way to achieve this is for every Arab regime to be concerned with itself and its own country rather than criticizing other regimes and interfering in their affairs. There should also be close cooperation among Arab countries regardless of their political stances. The matter also requires that we pay more attention to the Arab media because there is negligence and laxity in this important area, despite the means available. Media campaigns, exchange of abuse, the ignoring and distortion of facts, as is already being done by some Arab papers which are attacking Tunisia regarding the Arabic language, should be stopped.

[Ghurab] What, in your opinion, has been achieved so far regarding an Arab summit?

[Mabrouk] We have not yet made a final decision on holding a summit despite all the Arab countries' good preparations because the dates and times have not been convenient. In addition, the Islamic summit is approaching. We see that it has become essential that an Arab summit be held, perhaps not in the familiar form. There is an initiative by King Hasan II calling for an Arab summit to be convened soon on a certain subject to be agreed upon by all countries. We in Tunisia are in agreement with any action or any meeting that would bring Arabs together and unite them.

[Ghurab] Is King Hasan's initiative a new one or is it the one he previously announced?

[Mabrouk] No, this initiative has not been announced before; it is a new one.

[Ghurab] Are any efforts being made to hold an Arab summit on the fringes of the Islamic summit to be held shortly in Kuwait?

[Mabrouk] I do not believe that this is desirable. It is not appropriate for us to meet with our Muslim brothers and then appear at a meeting specially for us. This would divide the ranks of Arabs and non-Arabs.

[Ghurab] Since, as you say, there is a readiness on the part of all sides to hold an Arab summit, why is it not being held?

[Mabrouk] I, like you, am also asking this question.

[Ghurab] Is Tunisia ready to host the summit?

[Mabrouk] We have expressed our readiness on more than one occasion and we have welcomed everyone.

[Ghurab] What about Libya and your relations with it? What does the Libyan industry minister's participation in the interior ministers' meetings held in Tunisia mean to you?

[Mabrouk] The Libyan is an Arab brother, an Arab minister in an Arab country, among his Arab brothers. There have been circumstantial reasons for the estrangement between us and our brothers in Libya, but this does not mean that this estrangement is permanent. Matters will return to normal after some obstacles have been eliminated. There was a problem between the two countries, and our brothers in Tripoli expressed their readiness to solve and settle this problem. They contacted us and we welcomed them.

[Ghurab] When did contacts between you and them begin?

[Mabrouk] In fact, these contacts started at ambassadorial level in Paris when I was the ambassador to France. Later, contacts were made at different levels and a delegation from each country met in Geneva to solve the problem of the Tunisian workers expelled from Libya and also the problem of companies such as the Tunisian company (Evoïne).

[Ghurab] If this is the situation with Libya, what is the latest news about the unity of the Arab Maghreb states, or Maghreb integration at least?

[Mabrouk] We are considering ways of guaranteeing the unity of our voice and coordination of our stands. We are working to achieve rapid success and to overcome bureaucracy. The unity issue is a remote objective which might cause despair or at least exhaust those trying to achieve it. It is preferred that we set a realistic, attainable, and achievable objective--such as, for instance, removing whatever divides us, respecting the political systems existing in fraternal countries, consulting each other in all fields, eliminating the abusive language used among us, concentrating on fundamental issues like the Palestinian cause--the principal Arab problem--and the issue of the Iraq-Iran war and its effects on our future and the future of the Arab nation as a whole. I would like here to praise what has been achieved in the GCC states. Undoubtedly, this council is an example to be followed.

[Ghurab] How do you view the U.S. position following the revelation of the U.S. role in supplying arms to Iran?

[Mabrouk] That was a dangerous mistake on the part of the United States inasmuch as efforts should be made to establish peace, not to increase a belligerent state's capabilities of continuing the war indefinitely. This is our opinion, and we in Tunisia supporting the Iraqi efforts to achieve peace. Iraq has proved on more than one occasion its total readiness to make peace and bring this war to an end.

[Ghurab] How are your relations with Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO since the Palestinians' departure from Tunisia?

[Mabrouk] Relations between the PLO and Tunisia are fraternal. Brother Yasir 'Arafat is shortly to visit Tunisia, where he will receive the warm welcome he deserves as a fighter. The Palestinian brothers left Tunisia in a brotherly atmosphere following the agreement concluded between the Tunisian Government and Palestinian officials. It cannot be said that their departure from Tunisia was an expulsion. The Tunisian Government will never consider expelling the Palestinians, whatever the circumstances. It was merely the settlement of an exceptional case that required, in a particular period, that Tunisia embrace the Palestinian brothers following their departure from Beirut. The presence of Palestinians in Tunisia merely in order to live and forget the fighting and struggle is inconceivable and unacceptable for any Palestinian. They left Tunisia so that they would not forget the Zionist enemy but would continue their struggle and perform their duty.

[Ghurab] But there are those who assert the existence of this estrangement between you and the PLO.

[Mabrouk] We and the Palestinians are brothers and our relations are based on openness. We might disagree sometimes, but there are no complaints, or difficulties, or disputes of any significance. Theories of liberation differ, but they do not disagree. We in Tunisia are 3,000 kilometers removed from the seat of the Palestinians' struggle. No military operations against Israel can be launched from Tunisia unless we are talking about a sabotage or terrorist operation, and this we are against, as are all the Palestinians who were in Tunisia. We totally reject any terrorist act regardless of type and motive.

[Ghurab] The Moroccan authorities arrested two Tunisian girls prior to an attempted operation there. Did you for instance request the extradition of those girls? Are there any contacts between you and the Moroccans in this respect?

[Mabrouk] The participation of two Tunisian girls in an act of sabotage is something that we have nothing to do with and have no information about. I understand that they are being investigated, and we will not request their extradition before the matter is settled there. We and the Moroccans are brothers and neither of us would harm one another.

[Ghurab] Finally, your excellency Mr Minister, how will the case of ex-Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali end?

[Mabrouk] Mzali's case does not deserve all this attention. The man was a minister in Tunisia for 30 years and a prime minister for 6 years. This is a long period, one with which he should have been content and from which he should have benefited, being a man of knowledge, languages, and culture. Mzali made his own mistakes in the economic field; he lacked the qualities of responsibility. He is a demagogue who imagined that he would reach the presidency of the republic. When he was denied this responsibility he lost control of himself and behaved disgracefully.

[Ghurab] Have you requested his extradition from France?

[Mabrouk] Tunisian justice has had its say regarding this man and his escape from Tunisia under illegal and obscure circumstances. We have not yet requested his extradition from France; we have been content with the word of justice. His political activities abroad are based on a distortion of Tunisia's image, which saddens us because we are part of the Arab world, and whatever distorts our image distorts the Arab world's image. This distortion is taking place abroad anyhow, but in our country Mohamed Mzali is of no value. We are working hard here to confront the existing problems and make Tunisia a better place for the prosperity of the Tunisian people. This is our prime objective. We hear about Mzali through the foreign media. Had he exploited such means when he was in Tunisia, both he and the country would have benefited.

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CSO: 4500/60

BRIEFS

NEW OILFIELDS DISCOVERED--Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)--Iraq has announced that it has discovered new oilfields in several areas and that oil is present in large quantities. In a statement to the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH published here today, Oil Ministry Under Secretary 'Isam 'Abd al-rahim al-jalabi said that the new oilfields will contribute to increasing Iraqi oil reserves which are currently estimated at 72 million barrels, excluding the semi-confirmed and the possible reserves. Al-jalabi added that the Iraqi National Oil Corporation will complete drilling in several oilfields with the aim of developing them and starting production. [Excerpt] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jan 87] /9604

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL DIES--(Iraqi News Agency) The regional command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party announces with grief and sorrow the death of Comrade Kamil Nasir Husayn, member of the Wasit Branch Command, who passed away on the morning of 20 January 1987. Following is a portion of his party life: He joined the ranks of the party in 1966 and obtained the honor of membership in March 1968. He became a member of the Team Command in al-Qadisiyah governorate in July 1969, was elected a member of the Sector Command of Karbala' in 1973, and was elected a member of the Dhi Qar Branch Command on 23 Feb 1980. He participated in the ninth regional conference in 1982, and the ninth extraordinary regional conference in 1986. [Excerpts] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jan 87 p 4] /12913

CSO: 4404/222

POLL INDICATES LITTLE CHANGE IN POLITICAL AFFILIATION

TA272052 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] During the past year the Israeli population's political preferences have remained basically stable; they have not changed substantially in the wake of the rotation. This is revealed by the findings of a periodic poll conducted at the beginning of January by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute under the direction of Dr Mikha Hop.

Even though the current poll indicates a certain strengthening of the Likud, the real gap between the Likud and the Alignment is actually smaller than that indicated, when considering the decline in the electoral strength of MAPAM, most of whose supporters have crossed over to the Alignment. In the religious bloc, the poll indicates a gradual decline from the 12 seats the religious parties have in the Knesset to 9 seats currently. The National Religious Party [NRP] and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] are increasingly establishing themselves as the two main centers of the religious bloc.

The Tehiya and the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] have established themselves as the secondary parties in the two major blocs. The Tehiya, with 6-7 seats, has established itself as the third largest party.

The question posed to the interviewees concerning their political preference was: "If Knesset elections were held today, for which party would you vote?" The findings were analyzed and compared with those from previous polls conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute and are noted down as Knesset seats in the following table [figures as published]:

	Jan 1987	Jul 1986	Feb 1986	1984 Elections to current Knesset
Alignment	53	51	55	40
(Labor plus Yahad)				
Likud	34	32	30	41
NRP	plus 4	4	4	4
Morasha	-	minus 1	1	2
Agudat Yisra'el	plus 1	2	2	2
SHAS	4	3	4	4
TAMI [Traditional Movement Israel]	-	-	-	1
Ometz (RAFI)	-	-	-	1
Tehiya	plus 6	9	7	5
KAKH	2	2	2	1
Shinuy	3	2	1	3
CRM	5	6	5	4
MAPAM	2	minus 2	2	6
HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] plus Progressive List for Peace	6	6	6	6

/7358

CSO: 4400/133

WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS GET PREFERENTIAL FUNDING

TA230515 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM 1 ST in English 22 Jan 87 p 4

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Jewish settlements in the West Bank receive far more government funds than comparable communities within Israel, according to a newly released study by the West Bank Data Base Project headed by Meron Benvenisti.

The study, written by Aharon Dehter of the Settlement Study Centre in Rehovot, finds that, compared with West Bank communities, settlements in Israel are discriminated against in the allocation of government funds for services.

The study counters recent claims by settlers and their Knesset supporters that the allocations for services in the settlements had failed to keep pace with the 25 per cent population growth, and were lower than the aid given needy communities within Israel.

"Providing services to the Jewish settlers in the West Bank demands huge outlays, largely financed by generous public funding," the study says. A total of \$150 million in public funds was spent annually on West Bank settlements between 1984-1986, a decline from a peak of \$250m. in 1982-83, according to the study.

The study reveals that per capita expenditure on services in West Bank Jewish towns is 143 per cent higher than in comparable towns in Israel. Per capita spending on services in West Bank regional councils is 61 per cent higher than in similar councils in Israel.

The study compares government grants to three West Bank regional councils with grants given to three contiguous regional councils inside Israel in 1984. All the figures are per capita:

--The Gush 'Ezyon regional council received \$488 in general grants, while the neighbouring Mate Yehuda council received \$151;

--The Mate Binyamin regional council received \$497, while the Modi'in council in Israel received \$129;

--The Shomron regional council received \$659, while the nearby Derom Hasharon council received \$133.

Benvenisti says that though settlers have claimed preferential funding is necessary during their early stages of development, the slow growth of non-urban West Bank settlements has prolonged this "early" phase.

According to Benvenisti, most non-urban West Bank settlements are unable to grow to the point where they will no longer need considerable help. He says that in 1986 only 20 percent of non-urban West Bank settlements had more than 60 families--the same percentage as in 1984. The average size of these settlements--some 47 families--has remained almost unchanged since 1982.

In the last two years the growth of the settlements has been very slow, totaling 2,693 persons in 109 communities incorporated in regional councils, or 24 percent per settlement.

"It seems that the preferential treatment for West Bank settlements would have to be maintained for a long time; if generous public funding were suddenly withheld, the whole structure would collapse," Benvenisti said.

/7358

CSO: 4400/133

EFFORTS TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY REPORTED SUCCESSFUL

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by Najwa Najjar]

[Text]

AMMAN — Many countries face the problem of adult illiteracy and most have established long-term programmes to combat the problem. In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip many measures are being taken to educate illiterate men and women.

In 1978, the union of charitable societies of the West Bank coordinated with Birzeit University and charitable societies in Gaza to establish a higher committee to organise the literacy programme in the occupied Arab territories.

Classes for adults aged 15 to 50 years were opened in the same year. Since then, the premises of the charitable organisations in the various cities, villages and refugee camps have been used for classes while the union of charitable societies has provided the books and necessary materials and has paid the teachers' salaries.

The teachers, who are recruited through the voluntary societies, must have at least completed tawjihi and a two week training course provided by the union. The majority of the 215 teachers presently registered either have a two year diploma or a degree in education. The classes they teach are given free of charge and there are 10 to 15 students in a class.

Over the years, the number of classes has increased, bringing the figure to 215 in 1986. They are given either five times a week for two hours a day or four times a week for two and a half hours a day.

High female attendancy

The higher committee found that females make up 85 per cent of the classes and that the women are mostly from rural areas, refugee camps and the poorer areas of the cities. Therefore, the majority of the subjects taught are directed towards females since the programme aims not only to eradicate illiteracy but also to help students in their day-to-day life.

For instance, many of the topics covered include child rearing, the benefits of breastfeeding, health, nutrition, and sanitation and the vocational training students receive is in areas more applicable to females, such as small industries, agriculture, and embroidery.

The higher rate of female illiteracy was attributed by the higher committee to the availability of a larger number of government schools for males and the society's general preference to educate males. The committee considers anyone who has not reached the level of fourth grade in school as illiterate.

The first stage in the programme, which takes two years, aims to bring the student to the fourth grade level. The follow up stage, another two years, covers the fifth and sixth grades. The final stage of the programme is considered as adult education and brings the student to the ninth grade level and this level is usually achieved in three years. The books used in the three stages are the

same as those used in Jordan for the eradication of adult illiteracy and are provided by the Ministry of Education.

Magazines

The union of charitable societies also prints two magazines to complement the programme. The first "*Al Insan Al Judid*" (the new person) is directed to the teachers and contains articles dealing with various educational subjects. The second "*Majliti*" (my magazine) is geared for the students. It contains students' contributions and the news of the centres.

Over the past eight years, the level of illiteracy has dropped to 28 per cent from 34 per cent in 1978. However, although the number of registered students is presently 2,500, one thousand more than in 1978, it has dropped from the previous years (1982-84) when the number of students was over 3,000. The decrease has been attributed to the economic conditions of the students and

teachers and is considered by the committee to be the major problem currently facing the programme.

Financial support

Total annual cost to run the programme which is offered in 130 centres, is approximately JD 100,000. In 1986, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan donated JD 10,000 and the Jordanian government gave JD 35,000. In 1985, the Jordanian government granted JD 80,000 to the programme. Financial help also comes from various societies in the West Bank and Gaza.

In a recent development, a committee formed by GUVS has appealed to all social and economic organisations in the East and West Banks to offer more contributions to support this humanitarian cause of giving basic education to adult people in the occupied Arab territories who missed a proper education at an earlier age.

/9274

CSO: 4400/134

BENI BEGIN HOSTS BIBLICAL TV SHOW

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text]

Dr. Binyamin Ze'ev Begin, a politician by heritage and a geologist by profession, has added a new string to his bow. He is now also a film editor and host of a projected television series entitled *In the Land of the Bible: Verses in Reality*. The need for such a series became obvious to Begin during his lecture tours of the U.S., where he detected enormous ignorance in all areas pertaining to Israel, among both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. Even in the "Bible-belt," people had difficulty relating scriptural verses to a tangible reality. "They needed some kind of anchorage for the verse," Begin explained to *The Jerusalem Post*.

Early last year, Begin got together with Nathan Lifshitz of Magno Films, a Jerusalem-based company, and fired him with enthusiasm for the project.

The result is a half-hour documentary on the Arab village of el-Jib, once the biblical city of Gibeon. This is the pilot film for what Begin and Lifshitz hope will be a series of particular interest to clergymen and teachers of archeology.

Begin underlines the importance of limiting each episode to a specific biblical text. "You can't teach people about the whole country in a half-hour programme... You have to focus on a specific element." He is concerned with conveying reality. "There are people out there who think that Jerusalem is in heaven."

/9274

CSO: 4400/134

BRIEFS

FORMER LEADER OPERATES RADIO STATION--Dr 'Ali Amini, a former Iranian prime minister who heads a pro monarchist organization, is currently operating a radio station in the Middle East which is being financed by western elements. Dr Amini, chairman of the "Najat Iran" ("The Redemption of Iran") organization, founded the station some time ago and, after receiving funds from the West, decided to relay three broadcasts a day which include reports on developments in the Gulf war. Israeli radio amateurs are keeping track of the station's broadcasts. [Report by Natan Ro'i] [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Jan 87 p 3 TA] /7358

COOPERATION WITH EEC--The Council for Cooperation Between the EEC and Israel has decided to begin negotiations on cooperation in the fields of technology and industry. The Council convened today in Brussels, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres participated in the meeting. Israel is the first country with which the Common market will cooperate in these two spheres. It was also decided that financial assistance to Israel would be increased and that joint activity in the Third World would be initiated. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jan 87 TA] /7358

POLL SHOWS CANTONIZATION FAVORED--More than 20 percent of the Israeli public believes that it is possible to establish a confederation in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el along lines similar to the Swiss example, and that this might prove a positive basis for solving the Israeli-Arab conflict. This transpires from a public opinion poll conducted by the Smith Institute for the "Confederation Group," which is headed by Arye Hess and Dr Yosef Avi-le'a. The question that the 1,200 interviewees were asked to answer was: What do you think about the establishment of a cantonal confederation similar to that found in Switzerland, in the framework of which all parts of Eretz Yisra'el would be divided into sovereign and independent parts with a joint central government? Some 4 percent said the idea strikes them as good; 16 percent said the idea should be looked into; 26 percent said the idea is not good; and 45 percent said they reject this solution. Of the Alignment voters, 26 percent favor the idea, whereas only 15 percent of Likud voters favor it. The heads of the "Confederation Group" said they were encouraged by the results of the poll and hope these results will encourage political leaders who support this option to act to promote it. [Report by Uri Nir] [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jan 87 p A-3 TA] /7358

RABIN ON DEFENSE CUTS--The heavy cuts effected in the defense establishment during the past 2 years have brought the establishment's share in the GNP down to 7 percent, instead of the 16 to 18 percent in previous years. This was stated on Friday by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a speech he gave at Advocate House in Tel Aviv. Rabin said the cuts were made while taking security risks, but stressed that Israel's deterrent power against hostile countries has not decreased or been harmed. Moreover, "the quality gap between us and the Arab armies is increasing, not decreasing," he said. The defense minister noted, nevertheless, that the cut in his ministry's budget has what he termed "a reduction in defense muscle." The IDF has been in size, and we now have a smaller fighting force on land, at sea and in the air. According to Rabin, in 1986 private consumption increased by 11 percent and per capita income increased by 7 percent, while in contrast the defense budget decreased by 9.8 percent compared with the previous year. [ITIM report] [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jan 87 p 4 TA] /7358

SHAMIR ON RELATIONS WITH JORDAN--Prime Minister Shamir says Israeli-Jordanian relations are good and much improved over what they were 2 years ago. Speaking last night at his home with a group of authors and poets, Shamir said Husayn is not yet Israel's friend, but he said he hopes relations between the two countries will improve over the next 2 years. The prime minister also justified Israel's decision to sell arms to Iran. He said the sales were part of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel and helped Israel's military industries. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 87 TA] /7358

HIZEALLAH TERRORISTS KILLED--Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling has learned from sources in southern Lebanon in the attack by Hizballah on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position this morning, the assailants suffered many casualties. Some 10 terrorists were killed, and many were injured. The SLA did not sustain any casualties. REUTER reported that two IDF assault helicopters had bombed the assailants. In response to a question, the IDF spokesman said this morning, at about 0730, machine gun fire was opened at Air Force helicopters flying over the security zone. The helicopters returned fire, and silenced the source of the fire. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 87 TA] /7358

MERGER WITH YAHAD APPROVED--The Labor Party Central Committee approved with a large majority the agreement for the merger with 'Ezer Weizman's movement. The Labor Party will pay Yahad's debts, will reserve it three places in the next Knesset, and will appoint Yahad members to boards of directors and as diplomats. Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that he promises to repay the Labor Party every cent it invests in him by recruiting supporters and voters in the elections. This is reported by our correspondent Razi Barqay. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jan 87 TA] /7358

IDF APPOINTMENT--Brigadier General Doron Rubin will be appointed head of the General Staff's Military Training Department, and promoted to the rank of major general today. He will replace Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay who was appointed head of the Northern Command in August last year. [Summary] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Jan 87 p 3 TA] /7358

CHIEF OF STAFF DESIGNATE SHOMRON--The incoming chief of staff, General Dan Shomron, will best be remembered by the public as the man who led the Entebbe rescue operation. Born in Israel in 1937, Dan Shomron joined the Army in 1956, serving with the paratroopers. He later spent time with armored units, before being appointed chief infantry and paratroop officer in 1974. Later he returned to the command of tank forces in Sinai and then was appointed head of Southern command in 1978. Shomron was responsible for establishing the Ground Forces Command in 1983, before being appointed as deputy chief of staff. He is said to have three outstanding qualities for the post of chief of staff: Extensive battle experience, solid grasp of the future battlefield conditions and intimate knowledge of present and future military systems and weaponry, and, finally, openmindedness to new ideas. General Dan Shomron will take over as chief of staff in April. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Feb 87 TA] /7358

HUNGARY TO PURSUE RELATIONS--There are signs that Israel and Hungary might establish low-level diplomatic relations on lines similar to the interest offices established between Israel and Poland. Our correspondent reports that a Hungarian diplomat posted in West Europe has recently told an Israeli counterpart that Hungary has already taken the decision to pursue this course. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel adds that contacts between diplomats from the two countries have been going on for nearly 2 years, including a meeting between then Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Hungarian counterpart at the UN General Assembly. However, detailed negotiations on the resumption of ties have not yet begun, and no date has been set for them. [Text] [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Jan 87 TA] /7358

EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA--According to estimates made by the economic ministries in Jerusalem, Israeli exports to South Africa dropped last year. Replying to a question by our correspondent, the spokesman of the Industry and Trade Ministry said that a 9-percent drop had been registered in the first 9 months of 1986 and exports had totaled \$71 million. In contrast, imports from South Africa to Israel totaled \$158 million during the same period. Israel exported chemicals, minerals, plastic and rubber products, food, and electronic equipment to South Africa, and imported coal, iron, precious stones, fish, fruits, and nuts from it. [Summary] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jan 87 p 5 TA] /7358

LEBANESE WORKERS IN ISRAEL--The number of Lebanese workers employed in Israel rose by more than one-third during the past 3 months and now stands at 850. The head of the Civilian Administration in southern Lebanon, Lieutenant Colonel Hayim 'Arev, told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that preference for work in Israel is given to those serving in the SLA and members of their families. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jan 87 TA] /7358

NEW AIR FORCE DEVICE--Tel Aviv--Israel's air defence units are being equipped with new cameras that will enable ground crews to identify enemy aircraft at relatively long range. The cameras will give gunners more time to hit their targets. One camera, the Eagle Eye, has been developed for use with the U.S.-made Hawk ground-to-air missile batteries. The device includes a small box attached to the battery's laser range finder and can track planes, one source told THE JERUSALEM POST. The other camera was developed by Israel Aircraft Industries to be used with L-70 anti-aircraft guns. It can track planes as far as 10 kilometres away. Both cameras will be used with traditional radar, experts said. The radar will make the first detection and pass the information on to the camera, which will provide a televised picture of the approaching plane. This will enable the battery commanders to identify the aircraft when it is still out of sight and out of range, and they should be ready to open fire as soon as it is within range. [Report by diplomatic correspondent Joshua Brilliant] [Excerpt] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 87 p 4 TA] /7358

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CANADA--Tel Aviv--Israel and Canada have signed an agreement to cooperate in scientific research, particularly in the field of geology, Yosef Bar-tov, director general of the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry, announced last week. The agreement includes research in oil-drilling. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Feb 87 p 2 TA] /7358

POISON GAS FACTORY IN GOLAN--Damascus (SANA)--News reports from Amman yesterday revealed that the Israeli authorities are working on building an underground factory in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights for producing poisonous gas. Riyadh radio said the UN forces in the Golan have received orders to wear gas masks. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 18 Jan 87 p 1] /9317

CSO: 4400/137

AL-RA'Y WARNS OF 'MALICIOUS' ISRAELI PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

JN091224 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jan 87 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The New Israeli Propaganda Onslaught"]

[Text] The visit to occupied Jerusalem by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy coincides with an intensive Israeli propaganda campaign against Jordan to the effect that Amman holds the key to a political settlement to the Palestinian question and that Jordan should sit at the conference table with Israel. Obviously the aim is to lay the blame for the stagnating peace process in the area at Jordan's door and to impress upon world public opinion that unblocking the peace process is subject to Amman agreeing to sit at the conference table. This malicious campaign is not the first of its kind. All previous campaigns were unmasked and aborted. Initiating such efforts at this particular time means this Israeli trap figured prominently among Shamir's proposals to U.S. envoy Murphy during their talk yesterday.

Undoubtedly, by playing this old tune, Israel wants to perpetuate the vicious circle so the peace process won't get off the ground. All the same, Abba Eban has maintained that Israel is interested in pushing the peace process forward and Israel has announced it has decided to appoint an Arab as an ambassador to explain to the world Israel's thinking and concern for a peaceful solution. What this adds up to is that Israeli aggressors have planned a global propaganda offensive, using an Arab from the part of Palestine occupied since 1948, as one of its tools. The aim is to mislead world public opinion into thinking Jordan stands in the way of peace, using an Arab to spread this lie.

Whatever form it takes and means it employs, Israel's sophisticated propaganda machine will not affect Jordan's constant pan-Arab position, which insists on an international conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Furthermore, Jordan will refuse to be a substitute for the PLO or a proxy for the Palestinian people in the peace process. Hence it turns out that the key to a peaceful solution does not lie idle in the hands of Amman, but in the hands of those who are getting in the way of the international

conference and denying the Palestinian people their national legitimate rights.

U.S. envoy Murphy knows these facts and they were repeated to him in Amman. The U.S. Administration would do well not to join directly or indirectly in the malicious propaganda offensive being plotted by Israel. U.S. participation in this effort will hardly return American credibility to the area. Rather it would exacerbate the bitterness caused by U.S. practices in the area.

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CSO: 4400/128

AL-RA'Y COMMENTS ON ISRAEL'S 'ANTI-JORDAN CAMPAIGN'

JN231020 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jan 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel's Anti-Jordan Campaign"]

[Text] Yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir himself participated in Israel's anti-Jordan campaign when he reiterated that any progress in the peace process is contingent upon Jordan's consent to begin direct negotiations with Israel. The aim of this allegation is to depict Jordan as the party responsible for the deadlock in the peace process. It is to be noted that Shamir's statement comes in the wake of a fierce Israeli propaganda campaign against an international conference and those calling for convening it.

No doubt, Shamir and all the Israeli politicians know only too well that Jordan adheres to an international conference as an indispensable umbrella for any negotiations to solve the Arab-Israeli dispute in a just, comprehensive manner and that Jordan will not participate in any separate negotiations outside this framework. Shamir and the Israeli politicians also know that the Arab insistence on convening the conference is not because Arabs are afraid to face the Israeli negotiators, as Israeli propaganda organs claim, but because they want to define the aims of the negotiations before they begin and to effect a commitment to these aims, which are implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and tackling the Palestinian problem from every aspect. Thus, negotiations within the framework of the conference would become a way to realize an obligatory aim and not an end in itself.

It is also noted that Israel's anti-Jordan campaign was not confined to propaganda but has transcended it to the political field. This was manifested by Peres' attempts during his meeting with Mrs Thatcher yesterday to convince London of the argument concerning the so-called need to bring the views of Jordan and Israel closer together, notwithstanding the fact that Peres and all the Israeli officials are aware that Jordan's viewpoint is the same, namely, that which has won Arab consensus and which is represented by calling for an international conference and commitment to the Arab peace plan as outlined in the Fes summit.

This means Jordan has no separate stand which can be brought closer to that of Israel and that the only closeness which could be realized is connected with Israel's acceptance of an international conference and its recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. With such acceptance, the peace march will begin and just and comprehensive peace will be restored to the region.

The European community, Britain included, is aware of the various dimensions of Jordan's position. So also is the international community. Therefore, Israel's propaganda and political campaign against this country will not be any more successful than its predecessors and will definitely fail. In all cases, Jordan will remain the impregnable fortress on which Israel's tendentious campaigns will flounder.

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CSO: 4400/128

WEST BANK PROGRAM ON PROBLEMS OF ARABS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY

[Editorial Report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1822 GMT on 9 January 1987 carries a new 27-minute episode of the weekly program "With Our People in the Occupied Territory." This week's episode begins with a 3-minute introduction by the announcer in which he says: In this episode we will visit the holy Al-Aqsa mosque, learn about the suffering in the Arab universities under occupation and follow up the situation of our kinfolk in the occupied territories. He then reviews the duties and goals of these universities.

This is followed by a 6-minute interview with Dr Mundair Salah, president of Al-Najah University in Nabulus. He says: The measures taken against the universities are the repeated closings of these universities. Explaining the negative effects of this measure on the educational process, he adds: Among the other measures are the arrests, such as the arrests of teachers and students in particular, one day before examinations or during examinations. This impedes the graduation of university students. Another measure is the storming of the universities. Tens of soldiers break into the universities at night and search the rooms. They find nothing worthwhile. They find educational bulletins on the universities and regard them as provocative. This is the prelude to the closing of the university. On deportation measures, he says: They have deported teachers. In 1982 they deported 22 teachers from Al-Najah University. They also deported students. Even students who study abroad are forced to sign a statement saying that they will not return home for 2, 3, 4, or 5 years. This is designed to weaken the ties between the citizen and his home and land. Despite all that, the educational process is improving, God willing.

Next is a 1-minute report on the meeting between Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territory affairs, and a delegation from Georgetown University. The announcer says: The minister stressed that the international conference is the most ideal way to solve the Palestinian issue. He adds that the minister explained the duties undertaken by the ministry to bolster the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territory.

Next is a 2-minute interview with Bethlehem souvenir merchant Salih Qandawati. He says: The tourist situation is badly deteriorating. Tourism does not exist. We miss the American tourist. Stressing that

the European tourist cannot spend as much as the American tourist does, he says: The quickest way to improve the situation is for our kinfolk in the East Bank, or those in the East Bank responsible for the West Bank, to provide aid.

This is followed by a 4-minute interview with 'Abdallah al-Khatib, owner of the Petra restaurant in Jerusalem. He says: Undoubtedly, 1986 was the year of steadfastness for kinfolk who live in Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. This was the worst year since the occupation began. He then explains how he copes with his financial problems.

Next is a 2-minute interview with 'Umar Shawar, head of the Qalqilyah Chamber of Commerce. He explains the duties of the Chamber of Commerce. On his visit to Amman, he says: Upon the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, a 5-year development plan for the West Bank was prepared. The citizens were greatly delighted to learn of this plan. We prepared the requests of the Qalqilyah region where 70,000 people live.

This is followed by an interview with Talib Shihdah Abu Sunaynah, chairman of the Hebron Housing Cooperative Society, which was founded recently. Stressing that the society was recently established to alleviate the housing problem in Hebron, he says: We thank his majesty the king, the leader of the march in the two banks, our leader and the master of the country. We also thank all the brothers in our wise government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the aid. The board of the society met in Hebron. All the members and the brothers in Hebron gave us their passport numbers and their names. They asked us to convey their allegiance to his majesty the king, our leader, and the leader of our march. We ask God to hoist the flag of King Husayn ibn Talal over the holy Al-Qasa Mosque and the Ibrahimi Mosque. We conveyed a thank-you and allegiance cable.

Next is a 1-minute review of a book published by the scientific research center of Hebron University yesterday on the cultural heritage of Palestine.

The program concludes with a 5-minute recording of the Friday sermon at Al-Aqsa Mosque by Shaykh Muhammad al-Kafrawi in which he says: "You are aware of the plots to which this steadfast city is being subjected. Praising the people's steadfastness and heroic adherence to the soil of the city, he says: We will not give up an iota of this city. He says that Muslims are ideologically and religiously attached to Al-Qasa Mosque and stresses their firm affiliation with the mosque.

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CSO: 4400/128

AMMAN RADIO CARRIES WEST BANK PROGRAM 13 JAN

[Editorial Report] Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1215 GMT on 13 January 1987 carries a new 18-minute episode of the weekly program "The Occupied Homeland: News and Views."

This week's episode begins with a brief recorded excerpt from an old speech by King Husayn asserting Jordan will continue to support the people in the occupied territory.

Next is a 2-minute statement by Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat on the "recent Israeli news media's fabricated clamor about the Awqaf Ministry's transfer of mosque preachers, especially the preachers of Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Al-Khayyat says: "As for the subject of transfers or organizing preaching in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, we made a few arrangements last year and we appointed a preacher from the northern area of the West Bank, another from Gaza, and others from Jerusalem so as to have five preachers. Every week [on Fridays] a preacher gives a sermon. What happened is that some preachers who came from Gaza or the north were frequently prevented by the occupation authorities from heading for Jerusalem or they arrived late because of inspections or other reasons. This hampered the Al-Aqsa Mosque Friday sermons.

He adds it was therefore decided to appoint preachers who live in Jerusalem.

Al-Khayyat says it is customary for the Ministry to transfer preachers in the Kingdom. He explains: "The clamor in this regard is fabricated and aimed at offending the Awqaf Ministry, worshippers, and preachers. This is done by some people, may God forgive them, who do not fear God and do not understand administrative arrangements."

Next is a 3-minute statement by Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, head of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem and acting chief Qadi, on a memo he intends to send to the fifth Islamic summit conference to be held in Kuwait and on the situation of holy places in Jerusalem. He says that when the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock were built by an Umayyad caliph, 300 guards were appointed to look after them. He explains

that now there is more danger posed to the two mosques represented by "the Jews who have been trying to assault them day and night since 1967." He says the required number of guards should be not less than 500. He notes that there are now only 100 guards appointed by the Ministry of Awqaf. Concluding, Al-'Alami calls for supporting Arab citizens in Jerusalem who are being subjected to attacks by the Israelis.

The last item in this week's program is a 6-minute statement by Dr Nur al-Dajani, director of the Health and Social Services Department of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, on the services the ministry extends to charities, youth clubs and centers, health facilities, and needy families in the West Bank. Dr al-Dajani says:

"There are 117 charitable societies in the Jerusalem Governorate, 71 societies in the Nabulus Governorate, and 34 societies in the Hebron Governorate. In 1986, 539,000 dinars were allocated for all the societies." She adds that her department also supports 127 sports and social clubs and 83 trade unions in the West Bank.

As for needy families, Dr al-Dajani says 185,000 dinars were extended to needy families in the occupied territories. As for health services, Dr al-Dajani says the ministry supports a joint committee formed by the health minister which has representatives from both the West and the East Banks and which aims to promote health services in the West Bank and teach health education.

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CSO: 4400/128

WEST BANK PROGRAM DISCUSSES ARREST OF ARABS IN GAZA

[Editorial Report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1825 GMT on 23 January 1987 carries a new 36-minute episode of the weekly program "With Our People in the Occupied Territory."

The program concludes with a 4-minute report on a letter sent to the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST by an Israeli. The letter says: "While I was on a business trip to Gaza recently, I stopped my car to watch a shameful and sorrowful scene that was taking place on the highway and before the people. The Israeli troops were engaged in an arrest campaign of Arab youths. They used to pick up the youths from the streets and take them to a gathering place. There were approximately 100 detainees who squatted with their hands raised. Barbed wires were continuously thrown at their legs and backs. The new detainees were sent in groups of four. A group of troops received them and dealt blows to them until they fell on the ground. The youths who could walk had to creep on the barbed wires until they reached the wall. Those who could not do so were carried and thrown to the ground. Some troops were hitting the youths who stood by the wall with clubs. Many senior Israeli officers watched this scene. This implies that what was taking place was not an act committed by a patrol that violated orders, but it was an ordinary act that enjoys the approval of a supreme Israeli occupation authority. I then appealed to an officer--who was watching what was taking place from his car--to instruct the soldiers to behave in a reasonable manner. But he told me to leave."

The announcer adds: "The reader adds that he joins those who warned against the grave consequences which will befall Israel as a result of this odious immorality. He says he now believes the stories of the Arab detainees about the brutal treatment they receive in the Israeli prisons. He says if this is what takes place outside the prison, then what about what takes place inside the prisons?"

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CSO: 4400/128

WEST BANK PROGRAM DISCUSSES 'BITTER SITUATION' OF GAZANS

[Editorial Report] Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1215 GMT 20 January 1987 carries a new 20-minute episode of the weekly program "The Occupied Homeland; News and Views." This week's episode begins with a 1-minute excerpt from an old speech by King Husayn asserting the continuation of support for the Arab population in the occupied territories.

This is followed by a 2-minute report on the "Arab citizens' escalating protests against the occupation authorities' seizure of their lands." Citing West Bank papers, the report says that about 120 Arab citizens from three villages in the Qalqilyah area have objected to the Israeli confiscation of 16,000 dunums of the lands of these villages. The papers say that the owners of the land possess documents which prove their ownership of their land. The papers add that this land is planted with olive trees, while Israel claims that it is uncultivable.

Next is a 10-minute statement by Hisham al-Shawwa, the occupied territory affairs minister's adviser for the Gaza Strip affairs, on the "bitter situation" suffered by the Gazans. Al-Shawwa says that the Gaza Strip covers an area of 360 square kilometers with a population of more than 600,000 and a population density of 1,400 persons per 1 square kilometer. He says that the Israeli authorities confiscated 160 square kilometers of the strip and this means that the entire population lives in an area of approximately 200 square kilometers.

On the economic situation in Gaza, al-Shawwa says: "On the economic level, Israel controls this steadfast Strip. The Gazans have paid about \$500 million in taxes to the Israeli authorities since 1967." He asserts that economic situation and social and health services are deteriorating in Gaza. He adds: "The Jordanian concern about steadfast Gaza stems from this bitter situation and was represented, among other things, by the development plan and the setting up of an apparatus to supervise Gaza affairs at the Ministry of Occupied Territory Affairs. This policy is not new. Since 1967 and immediately after the war, Jordan has made several moves regarding the Gaza Strip, among which are opening the bridges for Gazans and their agricultural produce, issuing temporary passports, and facilitating the travel of Gazans to Jordan and via it abroad. What we are witnessing now is a continuation of this concern and policy."

Hisham al-Shawwa goes on to describe the objectives of the Jordanian development plan for the occupied territories, which include supporting the "steadfastness" of the Arab population in the occupied territories, promoting manpower, reducing the Arab labor force in Israeli activities, encouraging agriculture and industry, and reducing the dependency on Israeli economy.

On the Jordanian financial assistance for Gaza, al-Shawwa says: "The Jordanian Government drew up a development plan for this steadfast Strip, in addition to the West Bank. It allocated urgent assistance funds for the Gaza Strip amounting to 1.5 million Jordanian dinars. This sum will be spent on Gaza's urgent needs which need immediate support in the various health, educational, industrial, agricultural, or other sectors. At the present time, intensive and quick studies are being conducted to define the priorities for spending this sum, which, no doubt, will have a positive effect on the general situation in the Strip. At the same time, the Jordanian Government allocated, from the 1987 state budget, funds for supporting the occupied territory in various fields from which 3.5 million dinars are allocated for the Gaza Strip."

Concluding his statement, al-Shawwa calls on Gazans to support the development plan. He says: "Every citizen in the Gaza Strip is responsible for developing and preserving his land during the difficult circumstances of occupation. The only answer to those casting doubts on the objectives of plan is, as His Majesty King Husayn said, that those people are either those who made the occupation a source of living, those who change their stands according to their positions, or those who are satisfied with raising slogans without action. I hope there will be room in our steadfast Strip for those who cast doubts. The Strip needs the arms of its sons and needs every support and assistance. I was pleased with the Gazans' great response to the development plan."

Next is a 2-minute statement by 'Abdallah al-Hawamidah, under secretary of the Ministry of Supply, on instructions issued by the Ministry for the directors of cooperation societies in the West Bank regarding the buying of West Bank olive oil. The instructions deal with the quantities and quality of olive oil the Ministry of Supply will buy from West Bank farmers, in addition to procedures of delivery and prices.

At the end of the program, the announcer reads the names of those appointed by the Ministry of Awqaf as preachers, imams, and servants for mosques in the West Bank.

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CSO: 4400/128

AL-RA'Y SEES SOVIET INITIATIVES REQUIRING ARAB UNITY

JN111251 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jan 87 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Two Initiatives From Moscow"]

[Text] The Soviet Union renewed two political initiatives the day before yesterday: one on the Middle East conflict, and another on the Iraq-Iran war. In the first initiative, Moscow called for expediting the formation of a preparatory committee entrusted with preparing for the convocation of the international conference, in response to the UN General Assembly's resolution in this regard. Moscow has made it clear through Gorbachev that there is a need to remove the tension in the region because this tension is a danger that threatens all sides.

In the second initiative, Moscow called for putting an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war and for settling the conflict between the two sides through peaceful means in accordance with the provisions of international law. Moscow also emphasized its readiness to support efforts exerted by the UN to achieve this objective.

The two Soviet initiatives come at a time when Shamir renewed Israel's objection to the convocation of the international conference, about which U.S. moves once again began to resolve in a vicious circle. These two initiatives are also launched at a time when the Iraq-Iran war has witnessed an unprecedented escalation. Hence, the first initiative seems a strong response to the Israeli intransigence and the U.S. prevarications; while the second initiative serves to remind Iraq and Iran that the United States is the country which is benefiting from the continuation of the war and that it, the United States, is the country which keeps fanning the flames of this war to further escalate it.

Despite the importance attached to the launching of these two initiatives, we are dutybound to remind people that using them to bring about a convocation of the international conference and an end to the Iraq-Iran war requires the building of an Arab reality that is capable of benefiting from the strong Soviet support for the Arabs and that is also capable of adopting a decisive stand against those who contribute toward further escalating the Iraq-Iran war. Initiatives, no matter how strong they are,

represent political opportunities which need to be utilized by people. Initiatives by themselves are incapable of achieving the aspired goals.

Consequently, the Arabs find themselves confronted with a new opportunity. The Arabs are called upon to unify their stands and close their ranks to be able to benefit from it. Unless they do that, all the initiatives for which they have been waiting will be of no use because nobody other than the Arabs will utilize these initiatives for the benefit of their causes. It is unreasonable on the part of the Arabs to wait for initiatives and for the utilization of these initiatives for their benefit by others, while they remain unconcerned spectators.

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CSO: 4400/128

COMMENTARY ON RESULTS OF RECENT MURPHY VISIT

JN101004 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jan 87 p 4

[From the "View From Amman" column by Dr Kamil Abu Jabir, titled "Murphy Comes and Goes, But Agenda Remains the Same"]

[Text] An ancient Chinese philosopher once remarked that every man has a scheme that will not work. Judging from the past, it looks like whatever scheme Mr Richard Murphy has, that is to say if he has one, it too will not work. But then, perhaps that too is the idea: that there should not be any progress made, and that there is no reason to change the situation as it now exists in the Middle East. Looking at the situation from the vantage point of Washington it is not a bad one: Israel is in control of the occupied territories, and its creeping annexation is proceeding according to schedule and no one, certainly nobody in the area, poses any serious threat to its security. The moderates are also managing rather well--at least for the time being--while the radicals are at each other's throats and the Soviet Union remains in the Afghani quagmire. Iran is unleashing its wrath at the eastern gate of the Arab nation while Israel does the same in the west, and the Arabs are confused and disoriented enough to please their enemies.

Thus another trip by Mr Murphy to the area is not an unwelcome one. Surely he will find some more facts, say some interesting things, raise some hopes among the hopeless, get things into motion though no apparent activity will result, and keep our mass media busy for a few days. Certainly someone is going to say that this is a very cynical view. So be it. Every society needs its devil's advocates, its non-conformists, cynics even a heretic or a deviant once in a while, otherwise it will settle into its complacency or even lethargy.

But then that is a digression and I must get back to the trip of Mr Murphy. If anything characterizes American policy in the Middle East since 1967, it is a "crisis management" not "problem solving" approach. Now if you are managing a crisis your attitude is that of keeping it in proportion, preferably containing, rather than solving it. Such an approach, unfortunately, has been working for the benefit of Israel, which is ever so keen on maintaining the no-war-no-peace status quo until it swallows whatever is left of Palestine and maybe other territories beyond.

As Arabs we welcome Mr Murphy coming to our homeland but I wonder if we have anything more to explain to him. We have no new facts and in our disarray and confusion we cannot offer much initiative except perhaps to tell Mr Murphy that the radicals amongst us were right all along. They say that nothing can cut steel except steel and that, given time, and while Israel is creating more havoc with our mind and soul; we will learn. Over 35 centuries ago there were people here in Amman called the Ammonites who built round-towers, modest homes, filled the land and raised families. Now they are gone, though I hope there are traces of their blood and civilization in ours of Amman today. History has time and it can wait especially when the cause is so just. That is a fact that no one can obliterate even if under the force of circumstances we cringe with the fear of Israel and its devastating power. The Middle East was, is and will always be a land of constant surprises. Its pleasant oases, shifting sands, even its mirages are facts that support and nurture the people who once carved and one day will carve again another flowering civilization out of its harsh terrain. Underneath the comings and goings of conquerers, our people have always been there making a living, storing memories and compromising with life.

If facts are sought they can easily be found. "Seek and you shall receive" and "knock" ... our doors have always been open. Ahlan wa sahlan, welcome to those who come to our doors in sincerity. We hope that is how you are coming: in sincerity and not to create for us further false hopes, further illusions. We say that knowledge can be acquired by anyone and we hope that it is wisdom that you seek: the wisdom to search for peace, to press for it and to advise your friends in Israel that the path they are treading is the path of war; that if now we cannot make war now we are learning to. We do not ask, not anymore, that the United States abandon Israel if that is what it wants. We no longer speak of justice in a world that makes a mockery of the concept. We speak of an honorable compromise, a settlement that my children's children can live with. And when we say we are afraid of Israel it is not the fear of cowardice but that of wisdom where the force of life must win over that of death. The Israelis, or most of them cannot think straight. Some of them have literally escaped the Hitler furnaces and Western ghettos. Dizzy with their fears, insecurity and victories they are like men hit on the head with a blunt instrument: they cannot think straight. That is the time for the helping hand of a friend. That is the time when a friend must tell his friend that what he is doing to others is ultimately his own destruction. Sight is never enough for survival--decent survival that is--it is vision that is needed. The vision to go beyond the statistics, the facts and the apparent realities to the heart of the matter.

We have always lived with crises and thus we are not in need for some one to manage but to solve them, or at least try to. And now we look like a defeated people; that is just another crisis. In time we will react properly though now the unknown wonder in our soul remains unknown. Until now and by the force of arms, Israel is in the Middle East but not of it. We hope for peace so we can get along with our lives, building schools, creating and building for the future, and while there is soft elegance in our souls there is also fierce durability. I say greetings to Jerusalem!

PHOSPHATE MINES PROJECT STUDIED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 87 p 2

[Text]

AMMAN — A feasibility study on the Shidieh phosphate mines project, which is targeted to boost the mine's total annual production to 9 million tonnes by the turn of the century, has been finalised and work on the site will start within the next month, according to the project's director general Sameh Madani.

Mr. Madani said the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has floated tenders for the installation of high voltage cables to the site as part of the project's infrastructure. A 27-kilometre asphalted road will also be built to link Al Mudawarra with Ma'an, some 260 kilometres south of Amman, Mr. Madani added.

Actual work on the long-term project, which aims at tripling the annual production of 3 million in 1991 to 9 million, is expected to start with the next two months after the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) has conducted an assessment on the feasibility study, Mr. Madani told the Jordan Times on Monday.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Madani defined the project's goal as being to optimise the Shidieh's rock phosphate with the latest technical ways and at the lowest possible cost. The mine is estimated to have 100 years of reserves according to geological experts. Infrastructural plans for the project are currently underway.

Mr. Madani explained that the project underwent a three-phase plan to pave the way for its establishment:

A preliminary period which ended in mid-1984 to study the mine's potential of rock phosphates, possibilities for the production of fertilisers, as well as transportation and storage means available at Aqaba port.

— the project's feasibility study which has almost been completed and which included field work on drilling out samples and testing them, and experimenting on means to raise the raw material's potentials for chemical industries.

— to prepare the project's engineering designs and tender documents for implementing the project. The JPMC is currently preparing the project's working plans.

The mines are situated in the southern region of Jordan, 60 kilometres from Ma'an.

An executive committee for the project, under the chairmanship of Minister of Trade and Industry Rajai Muasher, has been following a clear cut policy for the project and has made maximum use of Jordanian expertise in areas related to mining, phosphate marketing, long-term planning and infrastructure related works, he continued.

Railway

According to Mr. Madani, the committee has started to market

the project to various Arab and international funds and to brief them on the project's goals. He said that the project's preliminary study on transport concluded that a railway would be the best method of transporting the mineral and he added that the proposed Shidieh-Aqaba railway could form the nucleus of a national line to link the country's south with the north and to other neighbouring countries.

He explained that the storage facilities to be erected at Aqaba will be used to store the imports of all materials needed for the final phosphate products and its derivatives and to export the mineral.

He said that after extensive studies to locate a housing site for the mine workers, the project's committee in principle decided to erect all housing facilities adjacent to the mines. Having all the project's workers living next to the site means that the production line will be operational on a 20-hour basis with three daily shifts, Mr. Madani said.

He said that studies on providing electricity to the site and making available potential subterranean water were also completed. Mr. Madani expects that the project would create around 2,200 job opportunities for workers in areas related to the project's technical, chemical and supervision aspects, as well as transportation, storage, handling and marketing.

PLANS TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's bill for fuel oil last year amounted to \$600 million and is expected to rise in the coming years due to the economic and social growth in the Kingdom, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, under secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said here Saturday.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that urgent measures should be taken to help reduce the fuel bill and that this should go hand in hand with concerted efforts to find alternative sources of energy and to rationalise fuel consumption. The oil bill is a major factor in Jordan's balance of payments and for this reason solar and wind energy and the energy produced from shale should be fully exploited, Dr. Badran continued.

Ministry of Energy studies show that nearly 90 per cent of Jordan's export earnings are soaked up by the oil purchases, which come mainly from Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Badran said that Jordan is one of the countries in the world with limited sources of energy resources that can be exploited on a commercial basis and therefore comprehensive national energy saving programmes should be launched.

Dr. Ali Anani, director of the renewable energy department at the Ministry of Energy, said that since Jordan enjoys sunny days for most of the year, solar energy can be exploited to save the traditional forms of energy and oil fuel.

He said that of the 350,000 homes in Jordan which use electricity, 20 per cent have

installed solar heaters to save power. At least 70,000 solar heaters are now installed in Jordanian homes, but this figure is expected to rise to 250,000 by the year 1995 — nearly covering 50 per cent of Jordanian homes, Dr. Anani continued.

In view of the importance of solar heaters to Jordan, greater and more efforts should be made to improve the production of solar heaters which could, in the long run, contribute to the energy saving programmes in the country, Dr. Anani added.

For this reason, he said, the Ministry of Energy in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has prepared an Arab-Jordanian set of specifications on solar heaters to help factories and producers and has also imported a solar heater simulator which can measure the heaters' efficiency.

Dr. Anani said that the all locally produced solar heaters are being tested at the RSS' energy department and that the Ministry of Energy is conducting regular training courses and holding seminars on the manufacture of solar heaters. A study prepared by the RSS has revealed that an

average family's needs of hot water is estimated to cost them JD 178.5 annually if electricity is used and JD 51 if diesel oil is used and JD 30.3 if solar heaters are used, Dr. Anani continued.

Referring to the exploitation of wind power, Dr. Anani said that experimental tests are underway, adding that power created from both the sun and the wind could be used in remote regions which are not supplied with electricity. He said that a pilot station for exploiting wind power has been built at Jurf Al Darawish to pump water and that similar stations have been set up at Omari and Jafr in the desert regions of Jordan and at Qureiqzeh, some 15 kilometres north of Aqaba. Initial results from these stations have been encouraging, he continued. Dr. Anani went on to say that a major experimental project will be carried out by the Ministry of Energy and the RSS at Ras Munif in northern Jordan during this year.

Interviewed by Petra, Mr. Mohammad Abu Ajamieh, who is advisor to the minister of energy and mineral resources, said that Jordan has an estimated reserve of 45 billion tonnes of good quality shale which could yield oil at the rate of 10 per cent and that this could supply Jordan's energy needs for hundreds of years. He said that studies are underway and tests on the shale are being carried out in China and West Germany to determine the most profitable way of exploiting the oil shale reserves in Jordan.

AL-AZRAQ OASIS EXPERIENCES WATER SHORTAGES

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 22 Jan 87

[Article by Monika Warich]

[Text]

AMMAN — Only five years ago, the Azraq Oasis was considered to be one of the world's most important sanctuaries for migratory birds, as its marshes lay on the main migration route between Europe and Africa. But today, Azraq has changed. Some experts say that it will soon cease to exist as such, and will become just another place in the desert.

The extensive marshes of Azraq are now completely dry for most of the year and the central swamp is being reduced to a mere pool. The water level of ponds outside the marshland is also falling. This is serious for the 2,000 people in the two villages in the vicinity, who depend on the water of the oasis for their living.

Irrigated fields draw on water from the many hand-dug wells in Azraq, but local farmers say that over the past five years, the level of those wells has fallen by between two-and-half and four metres. "If pumping Azraq's water is not immediately reduced to a level not exceeding its recharge capacity, there is little hope for the oasis to survive," says Anis Muasher, President of Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Already, the number of migratory birds stopping at Azraq has dwindled by as much as 95 per cent. The others now rest on the shores of Lake Tiberias on the west side of the Jordan Valley.

Back in the 1980s, the swamp that lies in the central part of Az-

raq still covered 10 square kilometres. There was an abundance of fish, waterfowl and rich vegetation. The swamp was surrounded by a larger area of intermittently flooded marshland, with an equally varied flora and fauna. Not so long ago, oryx and gazelles could be found in and around Azraq, as well as foxes and many smaller desert animals. Most of these have now vanished, due to excessive hunting.

Azraq itself is about 90 kilometres south-east of Amman. But the Azraq basin as a whole extends for nearly 13,000 square kilometres, right up into Syria in the north. The water that feeds the oasis originates in the Syrian mountain range around Jebel Druze, and then flows extremely slowly through underground streams towards the main Azraq plain. The water emerging today in the pools and springs is about 10,000 years old, which means that it dates back to the last ice-age.

The extraction of water from pools and springs in the oasis and by wells in the adjacent farming area has been observed for the last 30 years and has influenced the water situation in the oasis continuously. But the water has never been affected so drastically as when the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) started large-scale pumping in 1982.

That was to meet the rising demand for drinking water, particularly in the heavily urbanized area

in and around Amman. After the first 18 months of pumping, the water level of the WAJ's new wells had already dropped by a metre and a half.

The University of Jordan, which has made a hydrological study of the area, believes that excessive pumping could have other effects. For example, the lowest part of the oasis is a large mudflat, which normally is flooded completely in winter. In the summer, the water evaporates, leaving behind a layer of salt. The salt is traditionally "harvested" by the inhabitants of one of the villages.

But if the groundwater table should fall below a certain limit, it is feared that the saline water of the mudflat would seep in. This would destroy not only the swamp and the marshland, but also the farmers' wells, the pools which still supply drinking water to the local population and, finally, the WAJ's new wells. Anis Muasher says it is hard to predict when that point would be reached, but it could be soon.

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature has been active for several years, trying to protect the oasis and its unique wildlife. But as far as the WAJ is concerned, the top priority is to connect every Jordanian citizen to the main water supply, even if in the process Azraq is lost.

Jordanian environmentalists blame widespread mismanagement, faulty and insufficient pipe networks and wasteful irrigation systems for the ever-increasing exploitation of the country's scarce groundwater resources. Even the WAJ concedes that in Amman alone, about 30 per cent of the piped drinking water is lost because of frequent breaks and leaks in the network. This could be prevented with proper attention.

The strain on Azraq's water, as well as on Jordan's groundwater in general, could however also be reduced by the development and better management of the surface water bodies, all of which are in the north of the country. A recent study by the University's Water Research and Study Centre shows that the main perennial stream at the moment is little more than a canal of waste water that is hardly fit for the irrigation of crops.

What is required above all, according to Anis Muasher, is a political decision to switch from the current exploitation of groundwater resources to a policy of emphasizing water management and water-saving measures. But as things are at present, he is rather pessimistic about the Azraq oasis's chances of survival —

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CSO: 4400/135

CRIME STATISTICS FOR 1986 PROVIDED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) last year registered a total of 19,618 different crimes in the Kingdom and out of this number 64 were murders, with most of the people involved aged between 18 and 27, PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said on Thursday. He said that most of the murders were motivated by personal disputes, family problems and revenge but, he said, that in general last year's murder figures registered a drop compared to the previous year in which 81 murders were committed.

Lt.-Gen. Majali was addressing a meeting of Muslim preachers and ulemas whom he urged to intensify their efforts and to cooperate with the PSD in order to stem crime and eliminate its causes through their sermons at mosques and their religious guidance.

A high number of frauds were committed by people employed in private businesses, adding that crimes of embezzlement and fraud have been on the increase over the past three years, registering 378 in 1986 of which 32 were committed

by females. He said most of these crimes were due to bad economic conditions and financial problems.

Thefts, robberies

Jordan last year registered 4,269 thefts and robberies and most of those involved in them were labourers or unemployed people aged between 18 and 27, Lt.-Gen. Majali pointed out. He also said that a lack of public awareness concerning safety measures at home and business encouraged robbery and theft.

He said that 1986 witnessed 549 immoral crimes in Jordan and these included rape, adultery, kidnapping and mis-behaviour in public, and all those apprehended were found to be aged 18 to 27, and most of them were unemployed.

The young generation is more likely to commit such crimes, he said, due to a lack of proper guidance.

Stray bullets

Last year, Lt.-Gen. Majali

continued, also witnessed the death of 71 persons and 513 injuries from guns being fired during festivities and as a result of people tampering with firearms.

The PSD director went on to say that 13,701 road accidents occurred in the country over the past year causing the death of 362 people and injuries to 7,539 others and the ratio stood at 16 deaths for every 10,000 vehicles in the Kingdom. Lt.-Gen. Majali pointed out that the number of deaths from road accidents registered 24 for every 10,000 vehicles in 1985 and said that this is encouraging and reflects the fruitful results of PSD measures and public awareness.

Lt.-Gen. Majali spoke about the PSD's programmes and objectives and said that new measures being adopted by the PSD will greatly boost cooperation between the security services and the public.

Under secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi was among those present at the meeting.

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CSO: 4400/135

EDITORIAL PRAISES HAWKE STATEMENTS IN ISRAEL

JN310921 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Positive Stand"]

[Text] Statements made by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke during his visit to occupied Jerusalem mark a highly important development for two reasons: The statements are a departure from Australia's traditional stand on the Mideast problem, and they were made by one of the staunchest supporters of Israel. Israeli Government officials themselves seem to have been surprised by the utterances of Hawke, whose first port of call in his current Mideast tour was Amman, where he met with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials. They explained to him various aspects of the present state of affairs in the area.

It is striking that the prime minister of a country geographically remote from the Mideast and despite his strong public support for Israel should have better appreciated the Arab position and defended certain aspects of the Arab stand than his European counterparts, whose countries are closer to the area and more directly affected by its developments. Thus, while the Europeans are now taking a back seat even relative to their low-key position outlined in the 1980 Venice declaration, Australia, a Western-oriented nation politically and otherwise, has evolved a position more developed than that taken by countries bordering the Mediterranean.

Appreciating Hawke's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, we hope that all the Western countries will follow in Australia's footsteps. This should soften Israel's extremism and create a climate in which the international community could pressure Israel into recognizing the legitimate Arab rights and then agreeing to attend a UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of the five permanent Security Council members.

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CSO: 4400/128

BRIEFS

AID TO JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY--Amman--It has been decided to grant the Jerusalem municipality 75,000 dinars to cover its 1987 expenditures as a result of contacts held between the Municipal and Rural Affairs Ministry and the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry. This sum is part of the government support for the Jerusalem municipality to enable it to continue carrying out its responsibilities in the holy city's interest. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jan 87 p 1] /9604

ELECTRIC COMPANY OFFER REJECTED-The Jordanian Government has informed the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation that it will not approve the offer discussed by the corporation and the Israeli Energy Ministry, involving a waiver of part of the corporation's franchise on the Israeli settlements or Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem, in return for which Israel would agree to extend the company's franchise, which is about to expire. In so doing, the contacts between the corporation and Israel have been deadlocked and at this point it is not clear how the crisis in the company, deeply encumbered by debts, will end. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jan 87 p 3] /9604

CSO: 4400/128

MILITARY OFFICIAL DESCRIBES SAUDI VISIT AS 'FRUITFUL'

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

THE director of military installations at the Kuwaiti Defence Ministry, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Saud Al Sabh yesterday described his just concluded acquaintance tour of Saudi military facilities as revealing and fruitful.

Sheikh Sabah told Kuna on return here last night from Saudi Arabia that the visit served its purpose and underlined the importance of military administration in building up the individual fighter and raising overall combat readiness and efficiency.

The official described itinerary of the visit, at invitation of the Saudi Defence and Civil Aviation Ministry, as busy and extensive, given Saudi Arabia's vast area and multiple military projects, and stated that Saudi officials did their best to acquaint the delegation in the most possible detail.

During the week-long visit, Sheikh Sabah and the accom-

panying delegation toured military facilities in Riyadh and Tabouk apart from complexes in Dharan, Khamies Musheit and Jeddah areas.

Praising the Saudi experience of establishing integrated military cities, complete with accommodation, marketing and health services, Sheikh Sabah said the experiment cannot be copied in Kuwait in view of the small available areas and proximity of Kuwaiti military camps from each other.

The official announced that agreement has been reached with Saudi military authorities on the exchange of expertise, sending of Kuwaiti staff for training courses in the kingdom and the exchange of visits and thanked the Saudi Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Commissioner-General on the hospitality accorded at the Kuwaiti delegation.

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CSO: 4400/131

ATTACK ON SHIPS CONDEMNED

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

THE head of Kuwait's oil fleet has condemned attacks on civilian ships and vowed to keep the country's oil lifeline open.

Abdul Fatah Al Badr, chairman of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), also said he would welcome a UN naval peacekeeping force in the waterway.

Blamed

Gulf-based shipping sources blamed Iran for four seaborne missile attacks in the last 10 days on Kuwaiti and foreign tankers carrying Kuwait's oil exports.

The last 12 victims of Iranian missile hits in the Gulf were serving Kuwaiti ports, the sources said.

A group of international shipping officials urged United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Wednesday night to consider assembling a naval peacekeeping force for the Gulf.

Al-Badr said: "Really, I hope the United Nations will come up with something agreeable to all nations in the area making the waterway safe.

"I would like to see safe passage for all international shipping. However you do that, I will accept."

Perez de Cuellar told his visitors, representing the private merchant shipping industry, it was up to governments of affected flag-states and the

Security Council to seek action in the United Nations for a Gulf peacekeeping force.

The delegation's leader, Sir Adrian Swire, chairman of the London-based International Chamber of Shipping, said more than 100 seamen had been killed since the "tanker war," an offshoot of the ground conflict between Iran and Iraq, started in April 1984.

Al Badr said he was unaware of any approach by Kuwait or other Gulf Arab states to the United Nations or foreign powers for naval protection for their fleets.

Asked whether this would be considered, he replied: "Again, this is a political question I won't be able to answer."

The United States maintains six warships in the Gulf while the Soviet Union, Britain and France have naval vessels standing by which are sometimes used to escort civilian ships flying their national flags, the sources say.

Al Badr vowed that Kuwait, which pumps nearly a million barrels per day of crude, would keep its oil exports flowing. "Our ships will continue going up and down, regardless of what happens," he said.

He played down the most recent attacks, in which no casualties were reported and most vessels suffered only minor damage.

ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION PROVIDES SERVICES TO THIRD WORLD

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

THE World Islamic Charitable Authority has spent one million dollars to build service facilities for Muslims in Third World countries, according to its chairman Yousef Al Haji.

The authority, based in Kuwait, funded the construction of schools, mosques and hospitals in several Asian and African countries, he said. The funds were also diverted to dig wells in Africa. Schools and hospitals were constructed in such countries as Sudan, Mauritania, Mali and Nigeria.

Special attention was given to encourage agricultural projects in Bangladesh, he said. Vast fertile areas were provided with water pumps and irrigation systems

to plant rice farms, he said.

Some 470 Muslims are provided with their basic needs in these countries at a cost of \$306,000 per year. The cost of education, housing and clothing is given to each individual under the program, he said.

He said the authority spends \$86,000 per year to print and distribute Islamic books and copies of the Holy Quran in different languages.

The cost of medical care for poor Muslims runs to \$185,000. Health care facilities are provided to poor Muslim families around the world, he said.

The Kuwait-based authority was founded in 1984 and is supported by HH the Amir and HH

the Crown Prince and by more than 150 members from various Islamic countries.

Its aim is to improve the living standard of Muslims around the world.

Jobs

The projects are carried out in cooperation with the Islamic centres in the world.

"Our main aim is to provide employment for those without jobs and find homes for orphans and refugees, giving them food, clothes, medical care and teach them the basics of Islam," he said.

Provision of educational facilities is stressed, with emphasis on teaching Arabic and the Holy Quran, he added.

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CSO: 4400/131

STATISTICS ON FOREIGN WORKERS

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

THE Central Statistics Department at the Ministry of Planning has issued its annual report on social statistics for 1986. The report, which has been issued annually since 1972, gives a range of statistics on workers arriving and leaving Kuwait during last year.

The statistics showed that 41,623 workers arrived in Kuwait last year, of whom 80 percent were Asians, 13.5 percent Arab, and 5.6 percent European, while the rest came from America and other countries.

Of these, 70 percent came to work in the construction sector, 10.13 percent came to work in

the commerce sector, 6.81 in the services sector, 4.34 percent in the industrial sector, 4.12 in the agricultural sector, and 2.44 percent in the transportation sector. Other sectors joined were the insurance, finance and oil sectors. During 1986, 31,000 workers left the country, the report showed.

Of these, 20,424 were working in the construction sector, 4,954 in the commerce sector, 1,747 in the services sector, 1,402 in the industrial sector, 1,173 in the transportation sector and 620 in the agricultural sector. Seventy percent of these were Asian and 25,48 were Arab, the report said.

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CSO: 4400/131

BRIEFS

AMAL 'DEALS WITH ISRAEL' ACCUSATION--Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, has accused the Amal Movement of concluding a series of secret deals with Israel on security arrangements in the South, in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the area, in accordance with an established timetable. In an interview with the weekly publication MAGAZINE, Hawatimah noted Amal's intention to dominate the South completely in order to establish a Shi'ite canton similar to other sectarian cantons. He absolved Yasir 'Arafat of responsibility for initiating the camps war and disclosed that Amal is the party which has thwarted the cease-fire agreements, the latest of which are 'Abd al-Salam Jallud's proposals of 24 December and 8 January. The DFLP leader said that Nabih Birri has never honored his promises, particularly those pertaining to the provision of supplies to Al-Rashidiyah camp. Commenting on Syria's role in the camps war, Hawatimah said: In a way, Damascus is helping Amal. Damascus publicly acknowledges this. Therefore, we call on it to pressure Birri to halt the war and begin negotiations. Hawatimah cast doubt on Amal's sole representation of the Shi'ite sect, noting the role of Hizaballah and the ulema. He appealed to the Palestinian factions to unite. He asserted that the failure of the 'Arafat-King Husayn agreement has created a positive atmosphere for unity. [Text] [(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Jan 87 NC] /6662

CSO: 4400/130

DAILY COMMENTS ON MURPHY'S MIDEAST TOUR

PM221205 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 13 Jan 87 p 8

[Article by George 'Ayn Malik: "Attempt To Revive U.S. Settlement Will Not Succeed"]

[Excerpts] 'Usamah al-Daz, Mubarak's political adviser, has returned from a special lightning visit to Tunisia after meeting with Yasir 'Arafat to brief him, according to Egyptian sources, in the latest developments in the new U.S. move in the region. He will be one of the first people to welcome [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State] Murphy at Cairo airport at the beginning of his new visit to Egypt after 5 days of his exploratory, fact-finding, evaluation, and preparatory tour.

So far Murphy is happy with his recent tour, according to U.S. political statements. The reason for his happiness is that no one has confronted him, as originally feared even by U.S. sources, which described his tour initially as an exploratory tour but are now calling it a preparatory tour for the next stage of the U.S. solution. Had Shamir not been extremely frank and had he not refused even to keep quiet about his government's program to swallow more Palestinian land, declaring his refusal to make any concessions, even temporary ones, Murphy's visit might have quickly reactivated the region's crisis and pushed it toward the solution he is seeking, which is something between Camp David in its first form and the Reagan plan, which, since it was launched in 1982, has failed to reach the stage of implementation. Despite all the Israeli declarations, Murphy is still working hard to conclude his tour because he is in the end unperturbed by the Israelis launching their political slogans, which form an important part of their public policy in both positions and stands. As for Murphy's mission, he has managed to convince those he has met among Arabs representing regimes concerned with the U.S. solution that there is nothing to fear in the Israeli stand because Washington knows where it is going. Consequently, the U.S. Arab friends should trust it; this is what the United States expects from them. Had it not been for this U.S. confidence, these Americanized regimes would not have been able to survive. This is something new: U.S. policy is openly telling its supporters in the region what it used only to hint at in the past. Probably one of the aims of Washington's new approach in

the region is to reach with its friends in the Americanized regimes something like a shared conviction of the importance of what it calls the need to confront the complicated situation in the region with a united stand without entering into the complications of the Israeli position, which Washington claims to its Arab friends that it can improve or at least s ften for the peuples of these friendly regimes. As Washington circles hint at the possibility of Murphy making an additional visit to Kuwait before the Islamic summit, matters are assuming more serious dimensions. Information has leaked out during preparations and contacts before the conference about a plan to smuggle Egypt, which is still tied to Camp David, into the Islamic conference and to secure a suitable atmosphere for doing this without raising the question at the conference itself.

The belief held by some rulers in the region who shelter under the U.S. umbrella--that this umbrella is capable of solving their problems with their peoples and problems resulting from their chosen role in the Arab arena in general and of protecting them from their people's constant anger and resentment of the opportunist and deviationist role of these rulers inside and outside the region, especially because of their hasty involvement in the U.S. program--is a belief not supported by world events and is certainly a mistaken one. In the past the United States for one reason or another stopped supporting its allies in Vietnam, Korea, the Philippines, and Iran after exploiting them to the last drop of their Americanized policies. When the deposed shah of Iran was looking for a place of refuge following his expulsion by the Iranian revolution, U.S. politicians avoided him like the plague. However great the U.S. avowed promises to back these regimes may be and whatever Washington's assurances of protection, sympathy, and care for such regimes may be, there are indications in the present policy that should prompt these regimes to reconsider their mistaken political approach and to return again to what really can preserve them. This can be achieved through commitment to their nation and its causes and to their nation's position, especially on such issues as the Arab-Zionist conflict and the fundamental issues related to this conflict, foremost among which is the issue of fighting Camp David and its capitulationist and treasonous approach.

/9604

CSO: 4400/128

IRRIGATION DAM PROJECTS LISTED

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 12 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by R. Zein]

[Text]

following the launching of the Correctionist Movement, led by President Hafez Assad, Syria paid special attention to the execution of vital economic projects in the country. The construction of dams and the promotion of land cultivation projects have been given top priority by the Government.

Scores of dam construction projects have been completed and many others are underway. These vital projects represent a step towards improving socio-economic conditions throughout the country and a distinguished characteristic of modern Syria. Among these projects are:

1- The Euphrates Dam. It is the largest dam in the country. It is considered the first of its kind in the developing countries and the most important project in the entire Middle East region. The dam's length is 4.5 kilometers, height 60 meters, width at base 512 meters and at surface 19 meters. The al-Assad Lake

behind the dam is 80 kms. long and has an average width of 8 kms, and an area of 640 square kms. The capacity of the Lake is 11.6 billion cubic meters; it will increase to reach 14.1 billion cubic meters after the completion of the currently-executed project of raising the level of the dam's water. The dam is intended to irrigate more than 650,000 hectares of fertile land in the region, to generate around 2.5 billion KWA of electricity per annum, to regulate the flow of the Euphrates River and to prevent floods. The dam was built in collaboration with the friendly Soviet Union and is considered an example of fruitful cooperation between Syria and the USSR.

2- Al-Ba'ath Dam: It is the second important project in the country and aims to regulate the flow of water from the al-Thawra hydro-power station and to make use of stored water in order to generate around 375 million KWA of electricity per

annum. The lake in front of the dam is more than 27 square kms in area and has a total storage capacity of 90 million cubic meters of water. Work on this project started in 1981 and the cost of the project is estimated at LS 770 million. 3- Tishreen Dam: It is being established on the Euphrates River near Yousef-Pasha village 80 kms. off the Syrian-Turkish border. The dam is one km. long with a max. height of 50 meters. It has a power station with four turbines. It will produce around 1.6 billion KWA of electricity and the estimated total cost of the project is LS 1.5 billion.

4- Al-Khabour Dam: It aims to regulate the flow of surplus water coming from al-Hasakeh dam and from electricity generation station on the Western Hasakeh Dam as well as to regulate all flooding water, mainly al-Jaghjagh river waters. The dam is 28 meters in height and 870 meters in length, with a storage capacity of around 600 million

cubic meters. The area of the lake behind is 9,580 hectares. Around 35,000 hectares of land will be cultivated and irrigated and 18 million KWA of electricity will be produced by the end of 1988.

5- The April 17 Dam: It aims to make use of Effrin river and to regulate its flow as well as to generate electricity. The length of the dam is 1,400 meters, its height 78 meters; width at the base is 300 meters and at surface 10 meters. The length of the storage lake is 15 km. and its width between 0.5 km. and 2 km.

6- The November 16 Dam: It is being set up on the al-Kabir al-Shamali river, 25 kms. east of Lattakia city; it aims to irrigate more than 14,000 hectares of land in the area surrounding the city as well as to regulate the flow of the river and to prevent floods.

7- The al-Thawra dam project: It is located near Tarjanou village, 20 kms. east of Lattakia on the al-Sanaber river and aims to irrigate around 11,000 hectares of land and to generate electricity. The storage capacity of the dam is 98 million cubic meters and the area of the lake behind it is 365 hectares. The LS 650 million project will be completed by the end of 1989.

8- The dams of the eastern region: A number of dams have been constructed in the country's eastern region and these included: Bab al-Hadid dam completed in 1972 at a cost of LS 2 million with a storage capacity of 23 million cubic meters of water. Al-Jawadih dam, completed in 1974 at a cost of LS 0.5 mil-

lion with a storage capacity of 8 million C./M., Al-Jarahi dam completed in 1980; it irrigates 1,900 hectares of land and has a storage capacity of 19.5 million C./M. Ma'shouq dam completed in 1980 at a cost of LS 4 million with a storage capacity of 22 million C./M. Al-Sultan dam with a storage capacity of 50 million c./M. Other projects being carried out in the region are al-Mansoura dam (capacity 3.5 million C./M.) and al-Hakmieh dam (capacity 5.5 million C./M.). 9- The dams of the southern region: These are aimed to secure potable water for neighbouring areas and to irrigate land and included: Tsil dam completed in 1982 at a cost of LS 6 million with a storage capacity of 6.6 million C./M. and it irrigates around 700 hectares of land. Al-Sheikh Miskeen dam, completed in 1982 at a cost of LS 4.2 million with capacity of 15 million C./M. and it irrigates 1,100 hectares of land. Tafas dam, completed in 1982 to irrigate 300 hectares of land at a cost of LS 4.5 hectares of land. Adwan dam, with a capacity of 7.5 million C./M. to irrigate 10,000 hectares of land. Rojoylin dam with a capacity of 6.4 C./M. to ensure potable water and to breed fish. Other completed dams are Jabal al-Arab, al-Ajjeh, Rweihneh, Rassas, Khazmeh, al-Aslaha, al-Allan, Jubran, al-Batm, al-Mataieh, al-Mashnaf, al-Zalf, al-Fidah, al-Tibeh, Breiqah, Sahwat al-Khudr and Sahwat al-Ballat.

10- The dams of the Damascus governorate: Many small dams have been

built in the governorate. Among them are: Al-Damer dam, 4 km. north of Damascus, height 5.5 meters, storage capacity million 2.1 million C./M. Wadi al-Qarn dam in Aahadani area, height 15 meters, capacity 1.7 million C./M. Al-Qalamon dam, south of Deir Atieh town, height 15 meters and capacity 1.6 million C./M. Al-Qtefeh dam, 6 km. South-west of Qtefeh town, height 18 meters and capacity 0.5 million C./M. Khan al-Manqoura dam, south of al-Qaryatein town, height 9 meters and capacity 2.7 million C./M. Rishch dam in the desert, 38 km. off Sab'Niar village, height 5.7 meters, capacity 1.75 million C./M. Qara dam, west of Qara town, height 12 meters and capacity 8 million C./M. Deir Atieh dam, west of the town, height 11.5 meters and capacity 1.5 million c./M.

11- The dams of the middle region: Tens of big and small dams have been established in this region. The most important of these are: Tal Dou dam, height 22 meters and storage capacity 15 million C./M., Wadi Abiad dam, height 12 meters and capacity 5 million C./M., Abu Qalleh dam, height 13 meters and capacity 3.5 million C./M., al-Ghassanieh dam, capacity 3.5 million C./M., Tannounch dam, height 20 meters and capacity 26 million C./M., al-Dallabouz dam, height 17 meters and capacity 1.4 million C./M.; al-Dallabouz dam, height 17 meters and capacity 1.4 million C./M. Yahia dam, height 19 meters and capacity one million C./M. Al-Kafat dam, height 13.8 meters and

capacity 1.5 million C./M maskaneh dam, height 12 meters and capacity 960,000 C./M. Khirbet al-Hamam dam, height 15 meters and capacity 1.15 million C./M. and Wadi al-Gharib dam, height 12 meters and capacity 930,000 C./M. Other dams included al-Mubarakat, al-Sin, Tal Khatakh, al-Shindaqieh, Musiaf, al-Latamneh, al-Khashabieh, Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, Khan Sheikhon, al-Za'faran, al-Mehnaieh, Lalil, al-Qariatein, al-Wadi al-Kabir, Jebel Shagra, al-Baroudieh, Abou al-Fayad, Salim, Zkatieh, al-Faz, al-Habit and al-Marba'a.

12- The dams of the coastal region: Several surface and small dams have been established in this region; among these dams are: the Ballouran dam, completed in 1978 with a storage capacity of 15.5 million C./M., Salah Eddin dam, its cost LS 42 million and has a capacity of 10 million C./M. to irrigate more than 850 hectares of land, al-Marqieh dam of a capacity of 100 million to irrigate around 2,000 hectares of land, Beit al-Rihan dam, at a cost of LS 27.5 million and of a capacity of 7.5 million C./M. to irrigate 1,000 hectares, al-Huweiz

dam, at a cost of LS 16 million and with a capacity of 3.5 million C./M. to irrigate 1,500 hectares. Beit al-Qasir dam, of a capacity of 7.3 million C./M. to irrigate 100 hectares. Khalifa dam, at a cost of LS 15 million and of a capacity of 3 million C./M. Kafar Dbieh dam, completed in 1981 with a capacity of 1.4 million C./M to irrigate 150 hectares and Qanjara dam completed in 1977 with a capacity of 770,000 C./M. Other dams established near Lattakia include Barmana, Kersaneh and Saqieh dams.

It is to be noted that several vital projects were associated with the dam construction projects including the establishment of modern villages, the setting up of huge irrigation networks, the irrigation of vast areas of cultivated lands and the growing of different kinds of agricultural crops as well as the production of foodstuff. These projects together with several other gigantic economic and agricultural projects are being executed in various parts of the country. They will undoubtedly help improve socio-economic conditions, bring prosperity and help establish modern Syria.

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CSO: 4400/137

BRIEFS

NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS--Aleppo (SANA)--The projects of the General Establishment of Railways (GER) include the construction of a 85-km-long railway line linking Lattakia with Tartous and another 145-km-long line between Deir ez-Zor and Al-Boukamal. Technical studies to implement these projects have already been prepared. This was said here on Sunday by the GER's Director, Mr Ghassan Qaddour, who added that the GER plan also aims to establish a 130-km-long railway linking Damascus with Dara'a and other lines connecting thereby all Syrian economic sites with the main railway link all over the country. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 19 Jan 87 p 3] /9317

FORESTATION PROJECTS--Damascus (SANA)--The Directorate of Agriculture in the Damascus Countryside Governorate is following up operations of tree planting in all sites allocated for afforestation. Sources at the Directorate of Agriculture said that during January the governorate's afforestation plan, including the planting of three million trees, will be completed. People's organizations and local councils in the governorate will take part in afforestation. In Dara'a, peasant and worker masses yesterday launched a campaign of afforestation in the governorate's west areas. The area to be afforested is 80,000 dunums and about 1.5 million saplings will be planted during this season. In Quneitra, the Directorate of Agriculture has recently reclaimed 400 dunums of land at three different villages to be planted with fruit trees. Meanwhile, the Directorate has had an area of about 600 dunums planted with olive trees and over 6,500 dunums of various kinds of fruit trees. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 14 Jan 87 p 2] /9317

CSO: 4400/137

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

FOREIGN MINISTER ASSESSES ICO SUMMIT

EA231824 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, has said that Democratic Yemen attaches great importance to the fifth Islamic summit conference. This is particularly so in view of the circumstances in which it is convening, and the atmosphere in which many Arab and Islamic issues have become entangled. Dr al-Dali expressed the hope that the summit conference would help solve many of the intricate problems which have hampered many spheres of cooperation and friendship among Arab and Islamic States. He said this in an interview published in the 22 January issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SATAN.

Brother Dr al-Dali said the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, and the lack of any sign that it is about to end pose a threat not only to the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, but also to other peoples in the region. If the war expands, it will spread to other areas; hence the danger of the foreign intervention in the region. He added: At the summit we will exert efforts to stop the war, and strive to cool tempers in order to reach a solution that satisfies the parties concerned. We aim to solve all problems by peaceful means rather than allow the regrettable fighting to continue.

Referring to the increased foreign military presence in the Gulf region, he said: I must emphasize one principle, namely that the presence of foreign forces in the region and the further expansion and escalation of the Iran-Iraq war are dangerous phenomena that could lead to intervention by these forces, and therefore threaten the sovereignty, security and stability of the states of the region.

Dr al-Dali emphasized that the security and stability of the region is the business of the states and peoples of this region alone.

In his interview, the brother minister touched on recent developments in Afghanistan. He said that the new proposals by the Afghan Government are deemed to be positive. They emanate from an aspiration to preserve national unity inside the country. The proposals reflect a genuine desire to stop the fighting, particularly as the USSR has expressed its complete readiness to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. He added: In these circumstances,

I am of the opinion that, quite naturally, the Afghan Government has every right to attend and participate in the fifth Islamic conference.

The brother foreign minister stressed the need to work harder to stop the bloody fighting in Lebanon between brothers-in-arms who confronted the Israeli enemy when it stormed into southern Lebanon. At that time they were in one trench, fighting their common enemy--Israel.

Concluding his interview, Brother al-Dali expressed his gratitude for the efforts made by Kuwait to host the fifth Islamic summit conference. He expressed confidence that all these efforts will be crowned with success.

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CSO: 4400/130

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

SOVIET ECONOMIC OFFICIAL PRAISED--Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, awarded a Friendship with Peoples medal to Comrade (Dinar Petrovich Kadrov), the economic councillor at the Soviet Embassy in Aden. This took place at the Presidium office this evening at a ceremony attended by several party and state officials. In his speech on the occasion, Brother al-'Attas said the awarding of the Friendship with the Peoples medal to Comrade (Kadrov) was a sign of appreciation by the People's Supreme Council Presidium of his great efforts in developing economic cooperation between our country and the friendly USSR, of the contribution of his experience to Soviet-Yemeni projects and to the consolidation and development of our national economic infrastructure. In his speech on behalf of the Presidium, Brother al-'Attas expressed his appreciation of the economic cooperation between the PDRY and the USSR, which is considered to be the most important field of Yemeni-Soviet relations. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 87 EA] /6662

CSO: 4400/130

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

PRIME MINISTER ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT--Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Shani, member of the Standing Committee, has expressed hope that the fifth Islamic summit conference which opens in Kuwait today will produce effective and enforceable resolutions. Interviewed by the Kuwaiti daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, the prime minister said a major goal of the Islamic summit will be to try to find a swift and effective solution to the Iraq-Iran war. The YAR delegation to the summit, he added, will work with other participants toward halting the bloodletting, as continued hostilities will further drain the human and financial resources of both countries and those of the entire Islamic nation. He stressed that the subjects to be discussed by the summit concern the YAR. On the Palestinian question, the prime minister said he believed that ICO was set up to champion this cause. He also reiterated our country's clear stand on the Lebanese crisis and the regrettable situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, stressing the need for closing Arab ranks and directing Arab efforts against the Zionist enemy. He urged increased harmony and solidarity among Muslim countries so they may better deal with the serious challenges facing them. Concluding his statements to AL-RA'Y [words missing] Kuwait's progress in all spheres. [Text] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 87 JN] /6662

CSO: 4400/130

PAPERS REPORT DEVELOPMENTS ON PAKISTAN BORDER

Indian Exercises, Karachi Reaction

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Dec 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 21.

There have been some troop movements by Pakistan in some sectors of the lengthy land borders with India in the wake of army exercises now going on in Rajasthan.

The Indian defence chiefs are not unduly concerned at this Pakistan response to what is essentially a well established practice of holding military manoeuvres at this time of the year in Kashmir, Punjab or Rajasthan.

The Pakistan Army, which also conducts similar exercises along the borders, knows very well that the Indian defence forces carry out a major exercise every three years to test their own preparedness, besides the normal annual manoeuvres.

The Pakistan Government has been alleging that India has not only been conducting the 'biggest ever' army exercise this year deploying more than 15 infantry and armoured divisions, but also using live ammunition for the first time. It has been pointed out that when army units move out of their normal peace time stations for participation in such exercises they are supposed to take with them their regular ammunition supplies, repair facilities, medical teams and communications equipment to test their own mobility and combat efficiency under simulated war conditions.

But carrying live ammunition as part of a military formation's standard equipment is quite different from using it during these exercises. It has been stated quite authoritatively that live ammunition is used only for very limited purposes to give the troops a taste of what is cal-

led battle inoculation. No army commander would ever risk the lives of his men by using live ammunition during these exercises.

So it is quite evident that Pakistan is exploiting the alleged panic created on its side of the border by these Indian army manoeuvres as a pretext for moving its troops to forward positions. As most of the military cantonments in Pakistan are located fairly close to the borders, there is no particular compulsion to take these so-called additional precautions, as Gen. Zia-ul-Haq himself had said a week back that he did not expect India to launch a surprise attack under cover of these exercises.

In the near parity situation now prevailing along the borders with Indian and Pakistan ground forces evenly balanced for all practical purposes, the element of surprise if any till rests with Pakistan to the extent that its political system will enable its military hotheads to attack first at a moment and in a manner of their choice whatever the consequences. The Indian strategy has to be based on the ability to withstand such a surprise attack before taking retaliatory action.

According to military experts, Pakistan has the capacity to attack in corps strength at two points, but India will be able to roll back the invaders after absorbing the initial thrusts and carry the fight into its territory within 48 to 72 hours at the most. And any forward movements by the Pakistan army which is already located quite close to the borders will not make much difference in the existing strategic position on either side.

Pakistan 'Defense Channels'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

JAMMU, December 21 (UNI): Pakistan has built at least three new anti-tank "defence channels" covering about 175 kilometres, official sources here said today.

The longest channel of about 100 km has been built from Ranroor village to Zaide in the Sialkot sector. The sources said the channel was 25 feet wide and six feet deep.

The second defence channel of 100 feet wide and 50 feet deep has been built from Chamb to Manwar over a length of about 30 km.

Similar obstacles have been erected from Charwa to Sialkot. Apparently, the main idea is to prevent tank movement in these areas.

Pakistan has also advanced its supply depot for forward pickets to Charwa chowk in the Sialkot sector.

Meanwhile, according to the BBC, Pakistan has alleged that India was continuing its "biggest ever" army exercise in which live ammunition was used. The radio said this morning that Pakistan had taken "appropriate defence measures".

Pakistan Maneuvers

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jan 87 p 7

[Text]

JAMMU, Jan. 1.

The Pakistani President, General Zia ul Haq's New Year gift to the people of India, particularly to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, has been the resumption of his troops' unprovoked firing and shelling on Indian pickets, particularly in its border districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla and Kupwara, from the New year-eve.

The Pakistani commandos also made an abortive attempt to capture some Indian pickets under the cover of snow in the Siachen Glacier area of Ladakh, but it was repulsed by the Indian Army which inflicted many casualties on the Pakistanis, according to official reports reaching here on Wednesday.

The Pakistani forces' extraordinary troop deployment and large-scale military manoeuvres all along 750-km long Line of Actual Control in Jammu and Kashmir and the Indo-Pak border, particularly along Punjab and Rajasthan, were going on under a false pretext that this was necessitated by the Indian forces "war games" in the vicinity of the Pakistani frontiers.

'Invasion force strength': According to information gathered by the Indian intelligence agencies, about five Pakistani Army divisions and auxiliaries were currently deployed and engaged in these large-scale military manoeuvres near the border. Indian military experts are of the view that this was an "invasion force strength".

This has been done despite the fact that the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, had assured the Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, at the SAARC summit in Bangalore that the Indian military exercises should pose no threat to Pakistan. During his week-long tour of Jammu and Kashmir in December, Mr. Gandhi had made it clear that even though the Government was in possession of evidence that Pakistan had set up in its border areas terrorist training camps and trained and armed terrorists were smuggled into India, "we would have smashed these training camps, but being a peace-loving country, we did not want to violate international norms and procedures because we wanted to avert a direct confrontation with our neighbouring country," he added, and said "at the same time, we hope that good sense would prevail on the Pakistani rulers and they would give up the aggressive acts."

98 violations in three months: According to official reports reaching here, Pakistan committed at least 98 violations across the Line of Actual Control during the last three months from October 1986 by resorting to unprovoked firings on Indian pickets in Jammu and Kashmir. Even air violations, particularly in border areas of Ladakh, had been reported and their armed intruders had also been lifting cattle from inside the Indian territory.

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CSO: 4600/1326

ARABS CAUTIONED AGAINST PAKISTAN DESIGNS AT SUMMIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Dec 86 p 6

[Article by F.J. Khergamvala]

[Text]

BAHRAIN, Dec. 24.

India has undertaken a drive to caution the Arab nations about the possibility of Pakistan utilising next month's Islamic summit in Kuwait to drum up support for its position on Jammu and Kashmir. Arab officials confirm that soundings along these lines have been made. It is not known if New Delhi has also approached the African component of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), but considering that India's standing in the African continent is good, it is reasonable to assume its vigilance extends across the OIC membership.

Quite a few of the Arab capitals have indicated to Indian ambassadors that the Kashmir issue is of a bilateral nature and the Islamic summit would not be an appropriate forum for its airing. In at least one instance India has been requested to furnish a copy of the Shimla agreement stressing the bilateral thrust on all Indo-Pak matters.

Pak. manoeuvre: Notwithstanding the fact that the Kuwaiti conclave is unlikely to devote much time on a possible Pakistani effort to mobilise Islamic support, India's wariness stems from Islamabad's successful manoeuvre in obtaining accreditation at the last non-aligned summit in Harare for Mr. K. A. Khurshid, once private secretary to the late Mohammed Ali Jinnah and the so-called "president" of Pak-occupied Kashmir. The full circumstances under which the host Government accredited Mr. Khurshid have not been brought into the open, but New Delhi has conveyed its apprehensions to the Arab States that the manner in which the Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq chaperoned the delegate could portend a long-term drive for international recognition of Pak-occupied Kashmir as a liberation movement, a valuable currency in the Third World. At Harare, Mr. Khurshid was given short shrift by most delegations, but Islamabad could well try and

strengthen its hands for the next round by arming itself with OIC support—almost half of the NAM's active membership.

The point has also been made that for the first time Pakistan openly declared in its official budget a monetary provision for "the liberation of Kashmir". It is obviously not possible for India to ask the host nation to prevent the entry of a Pak-occupied Kashmir resident, as part of the Pakistani delegation but India could well have considered putting across its concerns at a higher political level, in some key capitals like Amman, Cairo, Riyadh, Baghdad, Ankara, the host Kuwait, as well as some of the more influential African States and those in South-East Asia.

Irrespective of whether it can be exploited, the advantage of having one of its own nationals as the Secretary General of the Jeddah-based OIC will not be lost on Pakistan.

Within the Arab fold, countries like Bahrain are almost certain to reject any such move on Islamabad's part. Last year this little nation refused an entry visa to Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan when his true identity was conveyed to the authorities, after a press report from Saudi Arabia declared his intention to visit Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia on the other hand can be counted as a doubtful recipient of India's concerns. As recently as November 27, the OPEC Fund for International Development announced a \$3.62-million loan to Pakistan for construction of schools in the rural areas of "the Pak-occupied Kashmir".

Fertile ground: Certain other items on the Islamic summit agenda offer Pakistan fertile ground to take advantage of India's absence of OIC membership, including an attempt to draw parallels between the nuclear ambitions of Israel and India's nuclear policies. One of them

is "the condition of Muslim minorities in non-Islamic countries". Islamabad may well attempt to deflect attention from the recent Karachi turmoil by cataloguing, as it has in the past, instances of Hindu-Muslim riots in India since the last Islamic summit. The end result of an attempt to fault India in the summit document may not affect New Delhi's standing abroad, but could well diminish the public support in India for its links with the Muslim world and other Islamic aspirations.

Iran's role: It is not at all necessary that Islamabad would raise issues that seek to embarrass India. The Harare NAM summit witnessed a fairly surprising degree of coordination between Iran and Pakistan on a variety of subjects with Teheran being the front. Iran had for instance initiated a lukewarm proposal for NAM's recognition of the Afghan Mujahideen as a liberation movement. A leader of the Hezb-e-Islami resistance has already declared that a seat at the OIC is the immediate aim as a step towards NAM and U.N. recognition, for which active member support is essential.

Attempts at making New Delhi the object of some Iran-Pakistan tradeoffs might suit Teheran admirably to muster Islamabad's assistance in warding off or diluting resolutions on the Gulf war and its revelations of arms purchases from Israel. Unfortunately from all indications India's cautionary soundings in Arab capitals have excluded the mention of proxies. The point could well have been made without identifying Pakistan's collaborators. Some aspects of the summit will thus also test Iranian professions of goodwill towards India.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1330

CPI, CPI-M LEADERS CLASH AT MOSCOW MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

CPI-M leader E M S Namboodiripad strongly attacked Indian Government's internal policies and clashed with CPI leader M Farooqi over split in the Communist movement in India at an international meet in Moscow earlier this month, according to speeches of the two leaders published in their respective party journals, reports PTL.

The meet of editors of theoretical-political journals of the Communist parties was convened by Soviet Communist parties theoretical journal the *Communist*.

Departing from normal practice, Mr Namboodiripad attacked Indian Government's internal policies, describing them as "anti-people through and through".

He also blamed split in CPI leading to formation of CPI-M to the "wrong policies" followed by the CPI. The charge was promptly rebutted by Mr Farooqi, a member of the central secretariat of the CPI, who accused Marxists of splitting the united Communist movement in India.

The attack on the Government and the CPI-M clash with CPI at the Moscow meeting, came within a week of Soviet leader Gorbachev's visit to India.

During his visit to Delhi, Mr Gorbachev had separate meetings with the CPI-M and CPI leaders.

The Soviet leader had, reportedly, advised both the CPI-M and CPI leaders that they should not adopt a policy of confrontation towards Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Government. On the contrary, they should cooperate with Mr Gandhi and try to convince him of their points of view.

In his speech at the Moscow meeting, Mr Namboodiripad, according to people's democracy, CPI-M journal, said the class policy of the Indian Government was at the external level, by and large anti-imperialist, but tending to make compromises, while on internal questions. "It is anti-people through and through".

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CSO: 4600/1332

ANALYST WRITES ON GANDHI SPEECHES IN WEST BENGAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Dec 86 p 9

[Article by Sumanta Sen]

[Text]

CALCUTTA, December 22.

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's recent announcement that Nepalese who had come to India after 1950 would not be granted citizenship has all the potential of stirring a hornet's nest, as it is in direct contradiction to the assurance which the Sikkim chief minister, Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari, claims to have got from him.

For quite some time now, Mr. Bhandari has been clamouring for citizenship for some 30,000 "stateless" people in Sikkim. During Mrs. Indira Gandhi's lifetime, he even had to lose his chief ministership following a strident attack against the Centre at a convention in Jorethang on the issue. He, however, enjoyed a triumphant return to power. He now claims that Mr. Gandhi has promised him that these people would be given citizenship. So far his claim has not been contradicted either from the Prime Minister's secretariat or the Union home ministry.

Many of these 30,000 for whom Mr. Bhandari is seeking citizenship must have come to Sikkim after 1950, and if he is not misleading they have been promised citizenship. Surely it cannot be the Centre's policy that Nepalese staying in Sikkim will enjoy a privilege which will be denied to those in Darjeeling? And if both are to be denied this then the Sikkim chief minister is not likely to take this lying down.

The entire citizenship issue is very tricky or, in the words of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF)

president, Mr. Subash Gheishing, "too complex to be settled at one go". Mr. Gandhi need not have brought this up in the course of a public speech, as this can well lead to further complications. Now he has initiated the process of reopening a delicate issue which could easily have been avoided.

As in other parts of West Bengal, in Darjeeling also the Prime Minister was more bent on attacking the ruling Marxists than anything else. Here also he has exposed himself to the charge of misrepresenting facts. For instance, he maintained that the state government was not using the police to deal with violence. How then can one account for the fact that around 30 of the 50-odd GNLF supporters who have died so far were killed in police firings? And isn't it also a fact that his own party has been accusing the state government of using the police in a brutal manner, a charge which falls flat if one were to accept Mr. Gandhi's contention that the police has been kept idle.

In course of his public speech at Darjeeling, Mr. Gandhi condemned violence in general but never for a moment expressed any sympathy for the over 2,000 people who have been rendered homeless in the hills.

As both the left front chairman, Mr. Saroj Mukherjee, and the GNLF president, Mr. Gheishing, maintained, albeit from different points of view, it did appear that Mr. Gandhi was more on an election tour, speaking as the AICC president and not as the Prime Minister. He repeatedly accused the ruling party (CPM) of using its cadres to spread "anarchy".

Mr. Gandhi should perhaps concern himself more with the state of the organisation of his own party in the

hills. It could not even make an effort to get people to attend the meeting and simply wilted when confronted with the GNLF's boycott call. One had thought that Mr. Gandhi would have condemned such sectarianism but he chose not to do so, reminding one of his low key poll campaign in Assam last year, which could not for a moment stand up to the AGP Juggernaut.

There are reports that the Congress is trying to have a secret understanding with the GNLF for defeating the CPM in the coming elections. If these are true then it would amount to sacrificing larger interests for the sake of just three assembly seats.

Like on the previous occasions, this time also Mr. Gandhi covered part of his tour of the state by road, entering homes and rapidly firing questions as to the people's wellbeing. He heard a lot of complaints, but was he expecting an ideal situation in which everybody would be fully satisfied with the existing conditions? And who is to vouchsafe that the villagers' answers were faithfully translated to him by the accompanying Congress leaders?

The Prime Minister seems to have become convinced that West Bengal has become a nightmare where only the law of the jungle exists. But this is contrary to the findings of various agencies of the Union government

itself. Some years ago, a commission to go into the issue of communalism had paid glowing tributes to West Bengal. Recently, another central body has reported that West Bengal's growth rate is the highest.

The election commission sent a team to study the preparation of voters' lists in the state and after an exhaustive tour it reported that the work has been conducted perfectly in accordance with the law.

The personalities of the Prime Minister and his wife are attractive and rural West Bengal responded as it was expected to do. But Mr. Gandhi should not forget that in these same villages the Marxists have their roots deep. Also, at the polling time, it is not the face of Mr. Gandhi that would be of immediate concern to the voter but the track record of most of his partymen.

It is nobody's contention that the CPM's rule has been flawless. Indeed, there have been very serious lapses. But the light in which Mr. Gandhi chose to paint its rule is just not in keeping with the experiences of the masses. Even the more saner section of Congressmen admit that while his two tours have caused a lot of immediate excitement, they have failed to leave any firm impact which could be of use on the polling day.

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CSO: 4600/1328

SIKKIM LEADERS IN DILEMMA OVER NEPALESE EVICTION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Dec 86 pp 1, 9

[Text]

GANGTOK, Dec. 23.—The Central directive to evict Nepalese nationals from Sikkim is likely to boomerang on the Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee (1) which has unwittingly blamed the Chief Minister, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari for the expulsion order in an attempt to reap political capital.

The Sikkim Government, on the other hand, is under pressure from the Army, the Border Roads Organization, PWD, construction firms and owners of orange orchards and cardamom fields, to allow migrant labourers from Nepal to stay. In a recent communique the State has asked the Union Home Ministry to review the order.

The problem arose after the Sikkim Government started implementing a Central order received in July this year that foreigners be evicted from the State and the Government stop issuing inner line permits and work orders to seasonal labourers from Nepal. All applications for inner line permits were to be forwarded to Delhi for clearance. "We asked the migrant labour force, who number 10,000, to clear out and instructed the police to monitor the expulsion", the State's Home Secretary, Mr M. M. Rastly said.

The State Secretariat was "practically besieged by deputationists from the Army, PWD, BRO, farm and construction firm owners. We are being pestered constantly to persuade the Centre to rescind the eviction order," the Home Secretary added. Officials point out that the Central directive had caused a lot of resentment and had become a political issue. "The Congress (I) here thinks it has a

handle against the State Government little realizing that the eviction of migrant labour hailing from Nepal was put into motion at the Centre's behest. The Chief Minister had nothing to do with it", senior officials say.

Civil construction officials have told the State administration that all construction works would come to halt in the absence of seasonal labour. The Sikkim PWD and the Border Roads Organization who employ thousands of Nepalese nationals have said the same thing while the Army has pointed out that it cannot do without migrant labourers in high altitudes in east and north Sikkim. Over the decades people from Nepal have worked in orchards, cardamom fields, helped in border roads construction and civil work in Sikkim, the Home Secretary said. The communique to the Centre has explained the pressures on the State Government from various quarters and pointed out that labourers from the plains would be unable to stand up to the rigours of high altitude.

With the furore over eviction of Nepalese nationals snowballing, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari gave an assurance that he would take up the matter with the Centre and instructed the administration to keep Delhi's guidelines on eviction, in abeyance till December 31. The Chief Minister, however, banned the issue of inner line permits and work orders to those seeking entry while allowing old migrant labourers to continue, till the end of this month.

The matter rests there. But with the December 31 deadline so

near there is fresh tension among the Nepalese nationals. The Congress (I) unit here has stepped up its tirade against the Chief Minister and warned that the eviction would be at variance with the India-Nepal Treaty of 1950.

Interestingly some Nepalese nationals, who form the bulk of the labour force in the State, want to settle in India. They have bought land in adjoining Darjeeling as they are unable to do so in Sikkim because there they are inner line permit holders. In west Sikkim, for instance, in villages like Dharamdin, Budang and Sombaria, one comes across agricultural labourers from Nepal who have been working in Sikkim for four or five years and have bought land in the Murbidang, Kolbung and Padeng areas of Darjeeling just across the river. A young migrant labourer in Dharamdin, when asked what he intended to do if told to leave, pointed towards Darjeeling where he has purchased a homestead "If I am asked to leave, I will have to go", he says. The village panchayat on learning of the eviction order, collected the names of the Nepalese nationals in the area and sent it to the State Government.

The State's Home Secretary points out that labourers from Nepal are needed in the orange orchards and cardamom fields because the owners, the Lepchas, are too lazy to do the work themselves. "And these are the two major cash crops which cannot be allowed to go to ruin," he adds. "If the Nepalese nationals are evicted in accordance with the Centre's directive Sikkim would face a crisis", officials say.

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CSO: 4600/1328

SUPREME COURT DEFINES POWER TO ISSUE ORDINANCES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

The power to promulgate an ordinance is essentially a power to be used to meet an extra ordinary situation and it cannot be allowed to be "perverted to serve political ends", the Supreme Court has ruled, reports UNI.

"It is contrary to all democratic norms that the executive should have the power to make a law, but in order to meet an emergent situation, this power is conferred on the Governor and an ordinance issued by him, therefore, of necessity be limited in point of time", the court added.

The ruling was handed down on 20 December by a constitution bench comprising retired Chief Justice P N Bhagwati, Justice Ranganath Misra, Justice G L Oza, Justice M M Dutt and Justice K N Singh while allowing four writ petitions by Dr D C Wadhwa and others against the "unconstitutional practice of the Bihar government in repromulgating ordinances year after year".

The copies of the judgment were made available to the press on Tuesday.

The petitions raised a question of great constitutional importance relating to the power of the Governor under

Article 213 of the Constitution to repromulgate ordinances from time to time without getting them replaced by acts of the legislature.

The question was whether the Governor of Bihar could go on repromulgating ordinances for an indefinite period of time and thus take over himself that power of the legislature.

The petitioners had in particular challenged the repromulgation of three ordinances. Since one of them—the Bihar Intermediate Education Council third ordinance was still in operation, the court struck it down and declared it as unconstitutional and void.

It was obvious, the court noted, that the maximum life of an ordinance could not exceed seven and a half months unless it was replaced by an Act of the legislature or disapproved by a resolution of the legislature before the expiry of that period. At the expiry of that period the ordinance must end.

The court said that in an extraordinary situation an ordinance could be repromulgated but this could not be done endlessly as had been done by the Bihar Government.

It would be a colourable exercise of power on the part of the executive to

continue an ordinance with substantially the same provisions beyond the period limited by the constitution by adopting the methodology of repromulgation. That would be clearly a fraud on the constitutional provision, the court observed.

The court noted it as significant that so far as the President of India was concerned, though he had the same power of issuing ordinances under Article 123 of the Constitution as the Governor had under Article 213, there was not a single instance in which the President had since 1950 till today, repromulgated any ordinance after its expiry.

The startling facts in the case of the Bihar Government clearly showed that the executive there had almost taken over the role of the legislature in making laws, not for a limited period, but for years together in disregard of the constitutional limitations, the court remarked.

This is clearly contrary to the constitutional scheme and it must be held to be improper and invalid. We hope and trust that such practice shall not be continued in future, the judges observed while allowing the petitions.

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CSO: 4600/1329

INDIA TO PURCHASE UK COMBAT TRACTORS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Dec 86 p 8

[Article by K.N. Malik]

[Text]

LONDON, December 20: India will buy 14 engineering combat tractors from Britain at an estimated cost of £ million.

India will also hold an option of buying another 25 such tractors which facilitate tank and vehicle recovery, clearing up and other operations during an assault.

The deal was signed in New Delhi on Friday.

This is the first major supply order that the Indian army has placed with Britain during the last 20 years or so. In recent times, the Indian army's major requirements have been met mostly by the Soviet Union.

In the sixties, India had negotiated with Britain the production under licence of Vickers engines and tank chassis for Vijayanta tanks, which along with Soviet tanks constitute the mainstay of the Indian armoured corps. It also bought some Centurion tanks and self-propelled 105-mm Abbot guns.

Negotiations for acquiring the combat tractors started several years ago. In 1985, it was thought that the deal had been clinched. But the strained Indo-British relations following Britain's handling of extremist Sikhs put the deal in cold storage.

SAME PRICE

The deal was being negotiated through the government international military service (IMS). Since the royal ordnance factory (ROF), manufacturers of the combat tractors, was privatised, the Indian authorities wanted to dis-

pense with the IMS as the middlemen and directly negotiate with the ROF.

British sources said that the direct procurement had not benefited India in any way. It had paid the same price that it would have paid had it bought the tractors through the IMS. It has merely delayed the purchase.

British sources are immensely pleased with the deal and consider it as a sure sign of the thawing of Indo-British relations after the recent ministerial level talks in New Delhi on the extradition treaty and the assurances

Britain gave to India about its intention to handle extremists firmly.

Indian sources, however, underplay the importance of the deal, which they describe as routine. The Indian army found the combat tractors most suitable for its needs. The delay was due to procedural matters.

GUN TURRETS

Britain is offering to India gun turrets to be mounted on Vijayanta tanks. This will include 115-mm guns and engines which will enable the army to use the self-propelled system developed by Britain's Vickers defence system and manufactured by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited.

The British manufacturers claim that the self-propelled guns will enable the Indian army to increase its artillery's fire power.

The two sides, as yet, have not discussed the proposals seriously. The reason is partly paucity of funds as the Indian armed forces only recently ordered Bofors field guns.

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CSO: 4600/1324

AGENCY NOTES CONCERN OVER FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Dec 86 p 14

[Text]

NEW DELHI, December 25
(PTI).

THOUGH the year 1986 saw a buoyancy in the industrial sector in the country, the balance of foreign trade is causing grave concern.

Barring continued power shortage in most part of the country production in various core sectors like steel, mines, cement and coal have picked up and movements of goods by railways have shown considerable improvement.

But the foreign trade, according to latest figures available, showed a record deficit of about Rs. 8,000 crores, with exports dropping by 11 per cent to Rs. 10,425 crores and imports increasing by about 12 per cent to about Rs. 18,500 crores.

While the negative trade-balance has fluctuated between Rs. 5,196 cores and Rs. 6,121 crores in the sixth plan, it has begun rising sharply in the seventh plan.

Capital goods approvals during April-September totalled Rs. 598.9 crore, a 72 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year.

There was a spectacular buoyancy in the capital market during the year. As against the capital issue approvals of only Rs. 510 crores in 1981, the approvals by the end of the current financial year is expected to touch a record figure of Rs. 5000 crores. Already approvals to the tune of Rs. 4,200 crores have been given.

The public sector undertakings such as NTPC and telecommunications which resorted to public borrowings for resource mobilisation, have seen their bonds being over subscribed.

In fact, the seventh plan, as the first two years show, faces serious balance-of-payments pressures, because of sharp fall in crude export earnings, increased debt servicing, particularly on IMF account, poor prospects of concessional loans, higher seventh plan external financial needs and fall in remittances.

Internally, the manufacturing, capital goods and transport equipment sectors are passing through a period of crisis with demand recession. The engineering industry, by and large, is having its quota of problems.

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CSO: 4600/1331

MIZORAM POLLS TO TAKE PLACE BY 21 FEB

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 24 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

Aizawl, Dec. 23 (UNI): The Mizoram Assembly elections will be held between February 15 and 21 next.

A message to this effect was received here from the Mizoram chief minister, Mr Laldenga who met the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, the communication minister, Mr Arjun Singh and other Union leaders at Delhi yesterday.

Mr Laldenga will leave for London tomorrow to wind up his establishment there.

Our Correspondent in Silchar adds: The final electoral rolls for the fifth Assembly elections in Mizoram will be published by January 2, according to the chief election commissioner, Mr R.VS. Peri Sastri.

Mr Peri Sastri, now on a week-long visit to Mizoram, said at

Aizawl today that the election machinery in the state had been geared up to hold the elections before February 21, when the present Congress(I)-MNF coalition government is to step down. Both the chief minister, Mr Laldenga, and the deputy chief minister, Mr Lalthanhawla, have asked the election commissioner to hold the elections before that date.

The process of delimiting the Assembly constituencies in the state has been completed with the delimitation committee carving out 10 more seats to raise the number of total seats to 40. The delimitation of seats was envisaged in the June 30 peace accord between the Centre and the MNF, which stipulates that Mizoram will have 40 seats in its Assembly. Seven additional seats have been created in

Aizawl district. The Lunglei and Chhimtuipui districts will have two and one more constituencies respectively. Mr Peri Sastri said the objections to delimitation would be sorted out to the "satisfaction of all concerned" before the polls. The MNF has objected to the recommendation of the delimitation committee that the Lokisherra and South Lunglei seats be reserved for non-Mizos.

Campaigning by the political parties has already started. An outline of MNF's electoral strategy was finalised at a two-day special assembly of the party in the Vanapa hall in Aizawl last week. Emphasis will be laid on the elimination of corruption, improvement in the lot of Mizo women, fulfilment of the regional aspirations of the Mizos and the implementation of the Mizo accord.

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CSO: 4600/1327

CHANGES IN COMPUTER POLICY SEEN SUCCEEDING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Dec 86 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 22--An Indian went to Sweden with some computer components. He repeatedly sought an appointment with an industrialist but was refused every time.

He eventually told the Swede that he only wanted his products tested by them. The components were tested. They were found to be so good that the reputed Swede computer maker now uses the Indian's components as standard parts of his computer.

There is the other side of the success story: A foreign company set out to buy some components for computers worth \$6 million. It looked around. Not one manufacturer could supply the quantity. Yet, international trade in computers and software is as large as \$100 billion.

India has a very thin slice in this cake--\$30 million a year. To increase it, India has decided to take big steps. She has overhauled her policy. Computer makers have been given incentives but with stiff obligations to export. Penalties will be recovered in rupees if the manufacturers fail to live up to their pledges. They will be allowed to import equipment but the exports will have to be 250% of the imports within four years. They will also be given 30% of the foreign exchange earned in a previous year for business trips overseas.

India's exports in this area have been looking up though the substantial increases of the past have been small in the global context. They rose to Rs 35 crores in 1984 from Rs 8,50,000 in 1975. The aim is to raise them to Rs 300 crores by 1990 and a package of measures are being taken to ensure that achievement does not fall short of the target. The incentives are truly impressive.

Computer production has doubled since a new computer policy was announced on November 19, 1984 and prices have dropped by half.

To enable exporters make quality goods which can compete in the world market, their requirements of imports of computer systems will be assessed by an interministerial standing committee which will issue a permit on the basis of which the Reserve Bank will immediately release foreign exchange.

There will be no hurdles so that production with exports in view can start rapidly. But if manufacturers fail to meet their export obligations, they will face stiff penalties and measures to collect penalties have been devised. But exporters will be entitled to benefits, and given the Open General Licence facility.

The Seventh Plan envisages a five-fold increase in the production of the electronics industry to a level of about Rs 10,000 crores by 1990 and the policy now being implemented seeks to ensure that it moves rapidly towards bringing itself on par, in technological terms, with world competitors.

It is felt that electronics and software can make a big contribution to India's export earning. The Government has now set up a specialized Export, Promotion Council for these two sections. So far the Engineering Export Promotion Council was responsible for electronics.

Unlike electronics, where the domestic demand is considerable, India's computer software sector is almost entirely export-oriented. Indian companies have established a reputation for themselves in the international market and have signed a number of contracts with leading companies in several countries, including the USA and Japan.

Exporters in the software sector will now diversify their production to serve diverse sectors, including telecommunications, banking, construction and insurance. Software experts had so far concentrated primarily on programming for overseas companies.

The software promotion schemes have been liberalized and simplified "for greater effectiveness." The interministerial Standing Committee will function as a single window clearance agency and coordinate all cases of software exports.

Satellite links will be allowed for 100% export activities. All imports connected with this will be exempt from duty.

Software development for the domestic market will be permitted to wholly-owned Indian companies and companies having foreign equity up to 40%. Companies with foreign equity exceeding 40% will be permitted only for 100% software export purposes.

For expenditure on coordination of exports from abroad, obtaining drawings and designs and payment of commission rates, a foreign exchange allocation of 30% of the net foreign exchange earnings in the previous year will be permitted.

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CSO: 4600/1325

SIND ASSEMBLY OPPOSITION MEMBERS ARRESTED

Women's Demonstration Sparks Arrests

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Kamran Khan]

[Text] Karachi, Jan 22--In a dramatic move Thursday, the Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah ordered the arrest of almost the entire Opposition leadership in the Sind Assembly. As many as 13 Opposition leaders were arrested from the Sind Assembly Building when the tea recess was announced during the Assembly session Thursday.

Hussain Abdullah Haroon, Mumtaz Qaiser, Junaid Soomro, Liaquat Jatoi, Imtiaz Pholphoto, Mrs Gulzar Unar of the Independent Opposition and Naimatullah Advocate Dr Ather Qureshi, Abdul Waheed Qureshi, Babu Ghulam Hussain, Aslam Mujahid, Akhlaq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami and Independent MPA Usman Ghani Soomro, were arrested in separate batches as they were talking to friends and journalists during the tea break in the Sind Assembly. None of them was shown arrest warrant.

The dramatic arrest of the Opposition came just after two noisy womens' demonstration outside the Sind Assembly Building. The two women rallies arranged separately by Pakistan People's Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, were demanding the immediate resignation of Sind Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah. The PPP women were also demanding Gen Ziaul Haq to step down.

At least a dozen of the PPP women were arrested as they scaled the 30-feet high iron gates of the Sind Assembly Building to reach the Assembly Hall where the session was still continuing. Journalists watched an unprecedented show of women's wrestling as the women Police tried to drag out the PPP women barging the Assembly Hall door while chanting anti-government slogans. They marched in the Assembly Building for about half-an-hour before being whisked away to a nearby police station in a police pickup. "It is the first time that protestors reached the Sind Assembly Hall while it was still in session," said a senior Sind Assembly official.

As usual the women demonstration arranged by Jamaat-e-Islami was disciplined and very well organised. IJT youth filmed the demonstration as at least 400 burqa-clad Jamaat women holding colourful anti-Ghous Ali Shah slogans marched in front of the Sind Assembly. These women, brought in several buses, dispersed peacefully as the Opposition leaders from both Jamaat-e-Islami and Independent Group walked out the Sind Assembly to address the women's rally.

But the real drop scene came as police, which was present in a large number in the Sind Assembly Building, was given a list of Opposition leaders to be arrested around 12.30 p.m. The first group which was arrested comprised Hussain Haroon and Junaid Soomro of the Independent Group and fiery speakers from Jamaat-e-Islami Naimatullah Advocate and former IJT leader Aslam Mujahid. Others, who include Dr Ather Qureshi, Abdul Waheed Qureshi, Liqquat Jatoi, Mumtaz Qaiser, Imtiaz Pholphoto, Gulzar Unar, Babu Ghulam Hussain and Usman Ghani Soomro were arrested as they walked out of the Assembly to protest against the arrest of Hussain Haroon and three other MPAs.

The Speaker of the Sind Assembly, Mr Muzaffar Hussain Shah, later told "The Muslim" that he was not intimidated about the arrest of 13 MPAs from the Assembly Building. The Speaker who refused to comment upon the assertion that it was the first time that members have been arrested from within the Sind Assembly Building, said that he had ordered an inquiry to find out whether the members had been arrested from the building. He again refused to comment when told that a number of journalists and visitors had seen the police arresting Assembly members from the premises.

The unprecedented arrest of the Opposition in the Sind Assembly came a few hours after the Sind Chief Minister's promise to people in an address on television that he would like to release all political workers to help restore peace in the province. Officials said today that the Chief Minister was hinting at the possible release of MQM leader Altaf Hussain and Pakhtoons arrested during the recent ethnic strife.

It is learnt that the Chief Minister took the surprise decision to put the entire viable Opposition behind the bars after his security officials informed him of the protest campaign organised by the Jamaat and Independent MPAs during the current Sind Assembly session which is expected to continue for a month.

There was no immediate public reaction to the arrests, but sources said that the Jamaat leadership was busy in giving final touches to a campaign to secure the release of its leaders.

Sind Chief Minister on Arrests

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Jan 22--Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah told a press conference today that deliberate efforts were being made to subvert democracy in the province and some members from within the assembly were trying to bring changes in the government in a manner as they were brought in the 50s, 60s and 70s. He was referring to the three martial laws in the country.

Addressing a press conference, second during the last 10 days, the Chief Minister said the opposition leaders were arrested when they tried to incite people against government, tried to resist the working of the law enforcing agencies and manhandled some government officials. He said a dozen of opposition MPAs were arrested 'strictly according to the law' and added "all of them can be released any moment as the offences committed by them were bailable."

Flanked by his six cabinet members and quite a few Muslim League MPAs, the Chief Minister informed newsmen that the Jamaat-i-Islami and some other members of the House do not want to see peace returning to Sind province. He described today's women's rallies as pre-planned. He made pointed reference to the behaviour of some MPAs since the House began its session this morning. He charged that some MPAs wanted to prevent the House from debating the law and order problems of the province. "This was the first time that efforts were made from within the Assembly to subvert democracy," he said.

"Nobody would gain if democracy fails again," Mr Ghous warned and announced that he would if need be, contact all the political forces in the province to strengthen democracy. He also said that he will not hesitate to release the MQM leader Altaf Hussain and remarked "there is no harm in releasing him."

Replying to a question as how the Jamaat-i-Islami and Pakistan People's Party took to the streets the same day and same time, both demanding his resignation, the Chief Minister said it was a new trend in the country's politics.

He made it clear that any member of the Assembly who commits any cognizable offence can be arrested from the Assembly premises. He appealed to the people to identify those elements who don't want normalcy to return to Karachi and Hyderabad.

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CSO: 4600/120

WALI KHAN REACTS SHARPLY TO ZIA'S STATEMENT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Jan 27: ANP President Khan Abdul Wali Khan has claimed the politicians were striving to save the Federation of Pakistan which had often come to harm under the stewardship of the Army generals.

Addressing a big ANP rally at Chowk Yadgar on Tuesday held to protest over the brutal murder of the late Fazil Rahu, he angrily dismissed President Ziaul Haq's statement in Kuwait in which he had remarked that even dozens of Wali Khans can do no harm to Pakistan and said the country's chequered political history showed that it suffered due to Army rule. "What I have been supposed to be trying to accomplish for years has been achieved by the generals much too earlier by dismembering the country", he alleged. He said that there was no need for Wali Khan to campaign for the break-up of Pakistan when there were many others who were doing so.

Wali Khan argued that Gen. Zia must surely be a bigger traitor for having offered him the Prime Ministership of the country through a general who met him in London. "What should we call a person who offers such an important position to a traitor", he asked. He accused the rulers of sowing seeds of hatred between different communities and sects only to perpetuate their rule.

ANP President, who wore a black band like so many other protestors, lamented that the Government claiming to be Islamic had banned his entry into Sind to deny him an opportunity to offer 'Fateha' for a slain colleague and

try to create friendship between the warring Pakhtoons and Mohajirs.

Criticising Sind Chief Minister by name, Wali Khan narrated the rumours which he had recently heard about the Chief Minister. One rumour related to the Rs. 90 lakh bribe allegedly pocketed by him in return for arranging the Sukkur jail-break in which hardened criminals were allowed to flee. Another rumour is that a son of the Chief Minister was enabled to buy a plot of land in Karachi for Rs. 16 lakh in the morning and sell it for Rs. 2½ crore in the evening the same day. The third rumour related to the Sohrab Goth when Karachi real estate magnates gave Rs. 2½ crore to Ghaus Ali Shah as bribe to get the land vacated for building commercial plazas.

Replying to Jamaat-e-Islami allegations that he had brought two trucks of weapons from Afghanistan last year, Wali Khan remarked that why should we bring arms and ammunition from such a far away place when these were freely available and sold in local markets courtesy the Jamaat and the Afghan Mujahideen who have made it a lucrative trade. He alleged that weapons meant for the 'Jihad' were disposed of in Pakistani arms markets to fill the coffers of the J.I. leaders and the so-called Mujahideen leadership. He said it was a unique form of war booty as it is gobbled-up before a single shot is fired at in the 'holy war'. He challenged Gen. Zia to declare a Jihad against the Soviet if he sincerely wanted to "liberate" Afghanistan.

Wali Khan dubbed the Tirah Road project as untimely and said it aimed at pitting the tribesmen against each other to further destabilise the area. He felt the Afghan war has been brought nearer to the tribal areas only to appease the Americans and earn some more money. He pointed out that the Road could set the Khyber Agency afire to add to the troubles confronting the country. The ANP Chief also referred to the tension on the borders with India and asked as to what was the Chief of Army Staff doing in Kuwait when his Army was on alert.

Advocating a change in the system, Wali Khan maintained that it had failed to banish poverty and guarantee an improved life to the masses. He said the people needed better education, health and other facilities instead of F-16s and other sophisticated weaponry. He emphasised that the primary question was whether the country's Government and resources would continue to be monopolised by a chosen few or the entire nation had a valid claim over them.

The ANP President paid rich tributes to Fazil Rahu and described him as a martyr. He thanked Miss Benazir Bhutto and the MRD leadership for joining hands with the ANP to observe Jan. 27 as a day of mourning and protest over Fazil Rahu's assassination. He remarked that he was not afraid of death even though he knew that Fazil Rahu's murder was not afraid of death even though he knew that Fazil Rahu's murder was not going to be the first one.

The public meeting was followed by a procession which terminated at the Soekarno Chowk after passing through the Qissa Khwani Bazar. The rally was also addressed by ANP Pakhtoonkhwa President Abdul Latif Afridi, its Central Committee member Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, and the PPP leader Barrister Masood Kausar. The latter said the Fazil Rahu was a man of the masses and conscientious politicians were proud of his sacrifice. He alleged that his murder was politically motivated.

Latif Afridi maintained that it was the second political murder of his partyman after Arbab Sikandar Khan Khalil-

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CSO: 4600/123

COLUMN EXAMINES 'SOVIET FACTOR' IN PAKISTANI POLITICS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Prof Khaled Mehmud]

[Text] The current peace overtures by the Soviet Union and its eagerness to settle the Afghan crisis in an apparent spirit of compromise has evoked divergent responses. Lack of enthusiasm by the Americans is understandable. They are not interested in ending the hostilities in Afghanistan, but are primarily concerned with gaining a better bargaining position vis-a-vis their rival superpower. But years of American connection has created a class of people whose intellectual dependence on Washington is so overwhelming that they appear to be more loyal than the King. They not only view the Soviet moves as a hoax but perceive the Soviet Union as a habitual aggressor which has expansionist designs on Pakistan.

"Warm water" theory is their favourite explanation for the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. They believe that the present bosses in the Kremlin are no different from the Tsars and will one day send their tanks rolling across the Torkham border to realise their cherished dream of reaching the warm waters. This school of thought interprets its rabid anti-Sovietism in ideological terms as well. According to them Moscow is an enemy of Pakistan, not only because it poses a threat of physical invasion, but also because it represents an oppressive totalitarian system and propagates a "Godless ideology."

Though this basically antagonistic perception of the Soviet role is not shared by different segments of public opinion, there is no denying the fact that the Soviets do not have a popular image in Pakistan. Relations at the state level have generally ranged from open hostility to cold indifference. At the popular level, the Soviet Union is perceived as a friend of India which has extended unqualified support to Indian causes at the expense of damaging Pakistan's interests. The Soviet stand on the Kashmir issue and its involvement in the secession of East Pakistan have been largely responsible for adverse public opinion. But, ironically, Pakistan's American connection instead of widening the base of anti-Sovietism has given the Soviets an alibi to justify their anti-Pakistan posture.

They have maintained that Pakistan's conscious policy of alignment with the Western bloc, its participation in the U.S. sponsored military pacts and grant of facilities to the Americans on its soil for undertaking hostile acts against the Soviet Union were clear indications that Pakistan had opted for an anti-Soviet role in international politics. Krushchev's outcry over the U-2 incident was a signal of Soviet resentment.

It is pertinent to point out that Liaquat Ali Khan was invited to visit the Soviet Union soon after he became Pakistan's first Prime Minister, but he preferred to go to Washington on an invitation which came later. On the Kashmir issue, the Soviets did not take a partisan position until the signing of the SEATO and CENTO and it was only during the Krushchev-Bulganin Indian visit in the late fifties that the Soviets publicly supported the position that Kashmir was an integral part of India.

The Soviets have not been lacking in responding to gestures of goodwill. They have shown eagerness to enlarge areas of economic cooperation by offering aid and increasing the quantum of trade. They were prompt in signing the oil exploration agreement when the initiative came from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, then oil Minister in Ayub Khan's cabinet. The Soviets were also reported to have offered several times to build a steel plant in Pakistan, an offer which was said to have been sabotaged by the pro-U.S. lobby in the establishment. It was also during the Ayub period that the negotiations finally came through for setting up Pakistan's first steel mill, which has been built with Soviet assistance.

But the best example of Soviet eagerness to improve ties with Pakistan was its role in the signing of the historic Taskent Declaration. The Soviet initiative and successful mediation in the Indo-Pakistan dispute was an indication that it could give up its partisan stance provided Pakistan was willing to play ball with it.

The myth of the "ideological content" of Pakistan's antagonism towards the Soviet Union was exploded when China became Pakistan's trustworthy friend and ally and that too, at a time when the Chinese were obsessed with ideological purity. As far as the perceived Soviet intention of conquering Pakistan is concerned, it is contrary to historical experience. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was to save a tottering pro-Soviet regime or in the Soviet jargon to "preserve the revolution" and not to annex a foreign country. Since World War II when the Red Army imposed socialism on East European countries after liberating them from the Nazi yoke, the Soviet Union has not tried to export the revolution. Socialist revolutions have not been brought by invading armies but have sprung from within.

In any case, friendship with the Soviet Union does not mean that the country becomes more vulnerable to socialist ideas or externally sponsored subversion. Years of friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union has not enhanced the chances of a communist takeover in India, and in Pakistan socialism has gained credence at the popular level despite the perceived Soviet

threat. Unlike the Americans, the Soviets have limited objectives in the countries whom they regard as friends. They want them to become independent of U.S. influence, self-reliant in economy and nationalistic in their foreign relations. They don't mix up ideology with business and have no hesitation in dealing with non-communist regimes prone to suppress radicals in domestic politics.

In relation to Pakistan, despite being critical of the presence of Afghan refugees and accusing Pakistan of training and abetting them for "armed intervention" in Afghanistan, the Soviets have refrained from retaliating in a manner in which they could have. They have not suspended their economic assistance and have neither played the "Baluch card" nor patronised Al-Zulfikar ventures.

In recent years the Soviet Union, instead of relying on the so-called "Soviet lobby" has tried to expand its contacts with a cross-section of people in Pakistan, which include individuals whose class origin or ideological inclinations preclude the possibility of their becoming Kremlin stooges. The Soviet terms for peace and friendship with Pakistan don't seem unreasonable and if Pakistan pursues its professed non-alignment in actual practice, it should have no quarrel with Moscow.

The Indian factor in Pak-Soviet ties should not be blown out of proportion. It is erroneous to assume that the Soviet Union and India have total identity of perceptions. In foreign relations there is no permanent friendship or enmity among nations. Rational policies are determined by enlightened self-interest and there is no reason why Pakistan cannot become a friend of the Soviet Union without compromising its national interests.

It is important to understand that there has been a qualitative reassessment from the Soviet side as well. For one, the Soviets have stopped looking at Pakistan through Indian eyes, and are willing to accept Pakistan as an important non-aligned regional country whose interests and perceptions do not always fall in line with that of the United States. Additionally, the Soviets also seem to be wary of Indian moves to befriend Washington, particularly the growing economic relationship as well as the possibility of defence collaboration. On the face of it, the Soviet Union was patently wrong in assuming in 1979, when it militarily intervened in Afghanistan, that there was any possibility of the U.S. using Pakistan to destabilise the left wing regime in Kabul. Moscow obviously failed to understand, being captive of past perceptions, that in 1979 Pakistan-American relations were at their lowest ebb and it was only after the Soviet intervention that the U.S. suddenly rediscovered the "importance" of Pakistan.

The Gorbachev era seems qualitatively different from the previous regimes. The present boss in the Kremlin is earnestly seeking peace. He is open-minded and dynamic and quite capable of taking initiatives not in tune with the familiar pattern in Moscow. Pakistan should seize this historic opportunity of securing peace on our Western frontiers and liberate itself from the legacy of relying on distant godfathers for a so-called security umbrella.

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CSO: 4600/120

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ABOUT AID

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 87 p 4

[Text] Addressing a news conference, Mr Eugene Staples, Director of USAID Mission in Pakistan, said that US aid to Pakistan is not linked to the Afghan issue and there would be no change in the US position when the Afghan crisis is settled. He also added that US presidential commitment to the aid package of 4.02 billion dollars would not be affected. Though the USAID official qualified his statement by saying that it was based on his personal assessment and indications from the official information at his disposal, the assurance is indicative of a positive approach. He is a responsible official and should be talking on good authority. Hopefully the State Department shares his perception.

Donor countries are not prone to dole out money for charitable causes and there are always strings attached to foreign aid. But when terms and conditions of aid agreements are arbitrarily imposed and the recipient countries are required to toe the line at the expense of their national interest, the effort becomes counter-productive. If the Americans want to improve their image in the Third World they will have to revise the policy of using aid as an instrument of political dominance. In the context of the current diplomatic activity to resolve the Afghan crisis, Mr Staples' comments have a special significance.

Obviously the Americans are not pleased with the recent developments and there are indications of divergence of perceptions between Washington and Islamabad on how to respond to Soviet peace overtures. If the Americans resort to their conventional tactics of arm-twisting through the weapon of aid, they may be able to wreck the peace prospects in Afghanistan, but eventually they will have to pay a heavy price for this myopic attitude. Diplomacy of blackmail and intimidation can force a government to yield but it cannot subdue a nation determined to defend its sovereignty.

Mr Staples has shown good sense by delinking the aid programme from the Afghan issue. This is a sound principle for policy making. If the State Department can be persuaded to accept it as the basis for policy vis-a-vis Pakistan, the Americans may lose one battle in the Cold War, but will have an open field to mend their fences with the people of Pakistan and to build bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect and goodwill.

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CSO: 4600/121

BILL TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO MARTIAL CONVICTS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 22--Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has directed the Justice Ministry to prepare a draft bill for effecting major changes in the prevailing law so as to provide redress to those political workers who have been sentenced by Martial Law courts and are undergoing various terms of imprisonment.

The question of providing appropriate relief to these political convicts who have been described by Amnesty International as Prisoners of Conscience was raised in the Senate during the debate on the 8th Amendment Bill. The Prime Minister accepted the demand of the Independent members that the Martial Law convicts should be provided some relief and that a procedure should be found for a review of their cases. The Prime Minister appointed a special committee to examine this question and suggest a framework within which these cases could be reviewed. This committee, however, was unable to complete its assignment within the prescribed period.

When the question was again raised in the Senate last week, the Prime Minister regretted the delay and asked the Chairman to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee for its examination. He also promised to look into the matter himself.

The amendment being suggested in the law, according to reliable quarters, would enable all Martial Law convicts to file review petitions instead of mercy petitions. These petitions would be addressed not to the President or the provincial Governors but to the Prime Minister or provincial Chief Ministers, who would be empowered to either pardon the convicts or send their cases to law courts for fresh hearing. The convicts would also be entitled to release on bail during the trial to review of their cases.

The proposed amendment bill is likely to be presented before the National Assembly some time during the current session. It would also take account of the suggestion made by the Privileges Committee.

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CSO: 4600/120

NWFP GOVERNOR SAYS FORCES IN KHYBER AGENCY 'BEEFED UP'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 23--The NWFP Governor Fida Mohammad Khan has said the paramilitary forces in the Khyber Agency have been beefed up to protect the life and property of the loyal tribesmen and deal with any eventuality.

Talking to newsmen at a traders' function in a local hotel on Friday evening, he ruled out the possibility of an imminent government operation against the lawless elements. He, however, added that notices had been served on certain errant tribesmen and the government reserved the right to launch a punitive action against them.

The Governor maintained that the extra force had been deployed in Bara a tehsil as a precautionary measure and not for launching an operation. He said it was the responsibility of the government to come to the rescue of a friendly tribe or an individual and to guard its own institutions in the Tribal Areas. He opined that there was little risk of a major clash with the rebellious tribesmen. He said the Kabul regime could ill afford to intervene in Khyber agency or any other tribal agency as it was preoccupied in a struggle against the Mujahideen.

Mr Fida Mohammad claimed the so-called Afridi "Lashkar" does not consist of more than 500 tribesmen which mostly consists of Soviet and Kabul agents, miscreants and the drugs mafia. He argued that the tribesmen participating in the "Lashkar" were not Zakhakhel Afridis through whose area the proposed road passes and hence they have nothing to do with the project. He said the government had least interest in the Tirah Road but it responded to a genuine demand put forward by almost all Zakhakhels. He reminded that it was the first time in the history of the tribal areas that a tribe had asked the government to build a road and the demand has been accepted. He said the Zakhakhels had a point when they asked for the road which will hasten the process of development in the area. Moreover, it will give them a sense of security in view of the bombing and shelling of their habitations in the Bazar Valley by Kabul planes and artillery.

Earlier, the Governor in his address to the traders expressed concern over the rising unemployment in NWFP and the Tribal Areas and the lack of an industrial base. He said those holding M.A. degrees were asking for jobs as peons and the situation was becoming grim. He said the government, the industrialists and the labour all were to share blame if industries could not be established in the province and those commissioned had to be closed down. He felt the government should have provided more incentives to attract the entrepreneurs who normally are shy of projects which do not promise quick returns. The Governor lamented that Pakhtoon labourers are very hard working and disciplined when they are working in lands beyond the Indus but not in their home province.

The Governor advocated equal development and industrialisation opportunities for all the four provinces. He said those areas which lacked being industrially would remain weak and prone to destabilisation. He appealed to the industrialists to come and invest in NWFP.

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CSO: 4600/121

ADMINISTRATION ISSUES PRESS NOTE ON KHYBER AGENCY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 87 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 23--The administration has issued the following press note on the Khyber Agency crisis late last night.

On January 19 while the administration was trying to resolve peacefully the difficulties created by the "Lashkar" of miscreants, the government's Jirga members were brutally killed by the miscreants in total disregard of tribal traditions. One can safely conclude that the miscreants are totally devoid of Pakhtun traditions. As such their clamour for the rights of the tribes has a hollow ring.

On January 20, the "Lashkar" of miscreants did not do anything. The government also showed its goodwill by reducing the presence of scouts, who were available in the area.

However, on January 21, the miscreants again spoiled the peaceful conditions by burning the house of Mira Jan in the Aka Khel area. This was yet another instance of the miscreant high-handedness and attitude of confrontation which it has adopted at the instigation of anti-Pakistan elements. Furthermore, the burning of the house was committed within the protected area.

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In order to provide security to the peaceful tribesmen living in the protected area of Bara Tehsil, the government was constrained to issue a notice to the "Lashkar" of miscreants to disperse peacefully.

The political authorities have also issued notices to 20 hostiles of the "Lashkar" of miscreants whose names are as under:-

Mamoor Shah Aka Khel, Hakim Khan Aka Khel, Wali Mohammad Kuki Khel, Bahadur Sher, Kuki Khel, Mullah Gul Akbar, Kuki Khel, Barkat Kuki Khel, Hamid Shak Zakha Khel, Turab Kamar Khel, Makhmad Kamar Khel, Toor Gul Kamar Khel, Abdullah Jan Malikdin Khel, Masal Khan Paiwari, Malikdin Khel, Said Mar Jan Sepah, Sher Ali s/o Ambara Khan, Sepah, Zarif Bar Gambar Khel, Ghuncha Gul alias Jarnail Bar Gambar Khel, Zulfiqar Shalobar Gambar Khel, Itbar Gul Shalobar Gambar Khel, Mir Mohammad alias Mirai, Shalobar Gambar Khel.

A collective notice has also been served upon the "Lashkar." Despite government's appeals, the "Lashkar" has adopted the boastful and proud attitude of complete disdain. Although the government's presence deterred it from burning all the seven houses it had promised to destroy today in the protected area, it did damage the house of Subedar Abdul Karim, Zakha Khel.

The government has tried all methods, short of confrontation, to achieve a viable solution while keeping in mind its responsibilities to the people.

After delivering fair warning and advice to the miscreants to desist from mischief, the government is duty and honour-bound to enforce peace in the area.

"Whereas, it has come to the notice of the government and the loyal Afridi tribe that you, in your individual and collective capacity, have repeatedly violated the respect and sanctivity of the protected area, which according to the agreements entered by you with the government is under the protection of the government, however, in continuation of your anti-tribal and anti-state activities at the behest of disloyal people, intended to insult the land of the Afridis which the government holds dear to itself, the government, in the larger interests and to protect the life and property of our Afridi brothers, is constrained to issue to you the following notice and warning.

You are hereby advised in your own personal interest to desist from motivation of this hostile "Lashkar." The government gives you adequate notice and warning to disperse immediately to your own houses and "abadies." If you fail to obey these instructions which the government is within its right to issue in the protected area whose safety is the government's foremost responsibility, the consequences of violating these instructions and orders would wholly lie on you individually and collectively. The fine will be recovered from you individually and collectively to compensate any damages which you might commit and have committed in furtherance of your mischief.

The government is honour-bound to provide protection to those tribesmen living in the protected area who seek its assistance.

Whereas, the government has no intention to interfere in your conduct in the tribal territory, similarly the government expects you not to interfere in the exercise of the government's responsibility in the protected area. This is by agreement and covenant entered into by your forefathers and your disobedience is a violation of that pact.

Through this notice, the government once again implores you to adopt the way of peace and not to shed innocent blood. If this notice is not faithfully respected, the consequences that follow will lie squarely on your hands.--PPI

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CSO: 4600/121

MUHAJIR LEADER RELEASED, MAKES STATEMENT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kamran Khan]

[Text] Karachi, Jan 23--In a major move to appease Mohajir population in the trouble-hit Sind Province, the Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah today freed the founder of Mohajir Qaumi Movement, Altaf Hussain and 12 other leaders of the Movement. The Sind Government also withdrew all cases including those of murder, sedition and arson registered against MQM leaders early November.

Hundreds of slogan-chanting Mohajirs gathered outside the Karachi Press Club where the MQM founder Altaf Hussain told a crowded Press conference that the MQM's struggle will continue till the Mohajirs have achieved their rights. But he declared that people from all nationalities living in Sind have equal rights.

Altaf Hussain and other MQM activists had been arrested on Oct 31 while returning from Hyderabad after addressing a massive public meeting. The Hyderabad public meeting was held only three hours after a MQM procession going to Hyderabad from Karachi was fired at from the notorious drug market of Sohrab Goth on the Super Highway. Nine processionists including a Police Inspector were killed on the spot and dozens others were removed to hospitals with bullet wounds.

The firing incident and the arrest of MQM leadership triggered the worst chain of ethnic violence which left at least 250 people killed and 700 injured. The two major cities of Karachi and Hyderabad are yet to recover fully from the after effects of the ethnic riots.

Altaf Hussain broke into tears as he narrated to the journalists that how the houses of the Mohajirs were set ablaze and children, women and old were killed by the agents of the "drug mafia" in the Orangi Township of Karachi on Dec 14. "Those were not the acts of Muslims." He lashed out at the role of religious political parties.

"We'll not tolerate the non-local police, which gets lakhs of rupees every month for protecting the drugs and arms dens" said Altaf, who also demanded that only "locals be provided employment in the police department."

He said the police arrested hundreds of innocent Mohajirs during the riots and only released them after extorting huge amounts of bribe from them. He charged that his interrogators in a Karachi police torture cell did not allow him to sleep for seven days. He said he was questioned for foreign connections and source of funds. "We have no foreign connections, nor do we need businessmen to mobilise funds," declared the MQM founder.

The MQM leader said his main task was to restore normalcy in the Sind Province. He said that MQM finalising the names of its leaders who will hold talks with the Pakhtoon leaders to restore peace and harmony in the province.

In a voice charged with emotion Altaf Hussain urged the authorities to arrange the return of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh. "They are the ones who lost their fathers, brothers, sons in the battle for Pakistan." He said that if a country could feed and provide shelter to more than three million Afghans, it could certainly afford to bring back its own citizens who were living a miserable life in the Red Cross camps in Bangladesh.

Informed official sources said today that release of Altaf Hussain and other MQM leaders came into effect when public representatives convinced the Chief Minister that the release of MQM leaders was imperative if peaceful conditions were to be restored in Karachi and Hyderabad. It has been learnt that early this week a special emissary of the Sind Chief Minister met Altaf Hussain in his prison cell and conveyed him good wishes from the Chief Minister. He was also told that the Chief Minister had also decided to withdraw all cases against the MQM leaders. It has been further learnt that MR Altaf promised his cooperation to the Government in which Altaf promised. These sources said restoring normalcy in Karachi Hyderabad.

During his Press conference Altaf Hussain didn't name the Sind Chief Minister while pointing at the biased action of police and administration's during the ethnic conflict. He spoke bitterly against the interference from other provinces in the administrative affairs of Sind. He was referring to the visit of the Chief Ministers of NWFP and Punjab to Karachi during ethnic riots.

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CSO: 4600/121

TRIBESMEN VOW TO OPPOSE TIRAH ROAD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jan 87 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 22--The Political Administration of Khyber Agency served notices on 20 Afridi tribesmen Thursday morning warning them to present themselves before the authorities or vacate their houses for a possible bulldozing operation. It looked certain that the Government was determined to repeat the December 1985 "Operation X-Ray" in which houses of more than 100 tribesmen were bulldozed.

Tension continued to build up in the sensitive Khyber Agency today as the Afridi tribal "Lashkar" burnt the house of one Subedar (Retd) Abdul Karim Zakhakhel in the Akakhel area near Bara as punishment for supporting the Tirah Road Project. The tribesmen however, could not destroy the house of one Maulvi Qamar Baz Akakhel, which was heavily guarded by a contingent of scouts led by the Agency officials.

Earlier, the "Laskhar" held a big Jirga at the Jehazoono Ground (Makeshift Airport) near Bara where prominent Afridi elders pledged to strive for protecting their honour and special status and foiling Government plans to build the Tirah Road. The Jirga members estimated at more than 2,000 later assembled in the Akakhel area where it was addressed by Masal Khan, Malikzada Safdar Khan (Wali Khan Kukikhel's cousin) Maulana Gul Akbar, Zulfiqar, Hameed Shah Zarif Khan, Abdul Qayyum and the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Khyber Agency President Ali Akbar Afridi.

They contended that the tribesmen were a buffer between Pakistan and Afghanistan and they wanted peace on either side. Terming their present struggle as a Jihad against the United States. They appealed to the people of Pakistan not to be misled by the propaganda presenting them as anti-state and anti-social elements. They refuted the allegation that only a handful of Kabul agents numbering less than 22 were spearheading the present campaign. They challenged those who said such things to come and see for themselves the crowd of the defiant tribesmen from all Afridi sub tribes. President Ziaul Haq was strongly denounced as a camp follower of American imperialism and his policies, especially on Afghanistan were criticised. They demanded constitutional guarantee that nobody will interfere in tribal affairs in future and warned all those supporting the road that they would be fined Rs 5 lakh and their houses burnt. An appeal

was made to newspapers to correctly report the happenings. Copies of an NPP Urdu daily were burnt for its biased coverage.

Maulana Gul Akbar Kukikhel, who is a leader of the Jamiat-i-Ulema in Khyber Agency gave a religious ruling (fatwa) declaring that the "Laskhar" activities including burning of houses of errant tribesmen did not violate the tenets of Islam. He added that the tribesmen were justified in taking any action to safeguard their interests and protect their independence.

A significant number of Zakhakhel Afridis whose majority supports the Tirah Road were also present in the "Lashkar." They included one Shaukat Zakhakhel, a cousin of Malik Nadir Khan Zakhakhel, who is the leading advocate of the Project. The "Laskhar" warned one Qandahar Khan Zakhakhel and Maulvi Qamar Baz Akakhel that their houses would be burnt too.

Business activity came to a standstill in the Bara Market and its surroundings today and educational institutions were closed. The personnel of the Frontier Constabulary and the Scouts have been reinforced and APCS were seen all over the place as the two sides readied for a show-down. Traffic on certain roads was closed and tanks too, were being employed to deal with any eventuality. The authorities and the "Laskhar" have appealed to Bara shopkeepers to keep their businesses closed tomorrow. Hospitals in Peshawar have also been asked to make arrangements to receive the wounded in case there was a clash.

There were rumours in the area that the Government will move to demolish the houses of the tribesmen on whom notices have been served. Those issued notices include Masal Khan, Ali Askar, Abdullah Jan and Hakim Khan from Malik Din Khel, Itbar Gul, Miray and Zulfiqar from Shobar Qambarkhel, Hakim Khan and Haji Mamoor Shah from Akakhel, and Zarif from Bar Qambarkhel. Certain Kukikhels and Sipah Afridis were also in the list.

It is also learnt that an Afghan refugee, Abdul Malik who was wounded in the tribal clash at Bara on Jan 20 expired today. Two Afghan women who were also hit in the crossfiring are still receiving treatment. The situation may take a turn for the worse in the next couple of days as the "Laskhar" is meeting at Bara again tomorrow and the Government is preparing to teach the "miscreants" a lesson.

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CSO: 4600/120

TRIBAL LEADER SUPPORTS CONSTRUCTION OF TIRAH ROAD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 87 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 23--The Afridi elder Malik Khan Zakhakhel has said the Tirah road was being built on the persistent demand of the Zakhakhel Afridi and it will be completed whatever the cost both in terms of money and human losses.

Addressing a hurriedly-called press conference at Peshawar Wednesday, he warned that the Zakhakhels would disrupt lines of communications through its area if the government was pressurised into cancelling the projects. He said the Zakhakhels were even ready to collect donations to execute the project in case the government lacked resources to build the road.

Terming the Tirah road as a matter of life and death for the Zakhakhels, Malik Nadir Khan argued that his kinsmen who had resisted foreign interference in tribal affairs for years were offended when certain tribesmen brought weapons and money from Afghanistan. He said the decision asking for the road was taken as a reaction to such acts, although the most compelling reason was the awareness that the road would bring progress and prosperity in its wake. He argued that the extremely poor and backward Zakhakhels had a right to seek development of their area through the construction of the 35-kilometre long road connecting Zingarra Karamna and beyond with Mangal Bagh.

Nadir Khan informed that work on the road was continuing apace and was expected to be ready in six months. He invited newsmen to visit the site and be his guests to see for themselves the ongoing construction activity. He challenged the tribesmen opposed to the road to stop its construction if they could.

The Zakhakhel chief maintained that only a handful of pro-Kabul elements numbering about 200 and backed by narcotics dealers and political blackmailers were opposed to the Tirah road. He did not subscribe to the idea that the Kabul regime will intervene in the Khyber agency if work on the project was not halted, arguing that the hands of the Afghan government were too full to allow it to embark on such an adventure.

COMMISSION FAILS TO AGREE ON TAXING FARM INCOME

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 28: The National Taxation Commission, which submitted its final report to the Prime Minister here today, has not been able to reach any decision on the vital question of levying tax on agricultural incomes. According to its recommendations released to the Press, the Commission considered arguments for and against the proposal but could not agree on a common approach.

It is understood that there was a sharp division among the eleven members of the Commission. According to the sources close to the Commission, six out of the eleven members vehemently opposed the idea of imposing any tax on agricultural incomes.

Finance Minister Yasin Wattoo while releasing the summary of the report in the form of 16 recommendations at a news conference had to face a barrage of probing questions from correspondents who were of the view that 90 per cent of the recommendations made by the Commission were related to procedural matters and there seemed to be no substance in them. The Finance Minister said that the recommendations of the Commission will have to be judged in the light of the 600-page report of the Commission which, he said, would soon be presented to the National Assembly.

He said the Government would examine these recommendations in detail and, if felt necessary, would take measures in the light of the suggestions made by the Commission.

The Commission, he said, has suggested radical changes in the concept and application of the present system of taxation. The proposed changes are related to the small businessmen, self-assessment scheme, detailed scrutiny, returns filed by salaried persons, concealment cases, refund, appeals, national tax register, dry ports, smuggling, central excise, sale tax, tax on agriculture, incentives and administrative structure.

The problem of smuggling has been analysed by the Commission in detail. Recommending some remedial measures, the Commission has proposed the removal of the existing ban on import of gold and on the possession, sale, purchase and transport of foreign currencies.

The report covers all the terms of reference of the Commission other than provincial taxes, for which it recommends studies to be conducted by the provincial authorities. User charges are not covered.

The report recommends radical changes in the concept and application of the present system of taxation. It recognises the existing mutual atmosphere of distrust between the taxpayer and the tax collector and makes specific recommendations to eliminate or at least reduce public animosity to the system. Specifically it makes inter alia the following recommendations:

INCOME TAX

The Commission has recommended that small retailers may be given the option to pay a fixed (reasonable) amount of tax which would discharge their tax liability for the whole year. Their tax form may be brief and simple and the method of payment may be equally simple, eliminating repeated visits to the tax office.

The Commission has recommended that in case of persons not falling in the category of small retailers the income shown by them as well as their calculations of tax may be accepted without question by the Income Tax Department as soon as the return is filed so long as copies of the prescribed accounts are filed and the legally inadmissible expenses (personal and household expenses, school fees, ineligible taxes) are not claimed.

Once in five years, the computer may pick up each case to be subjected to total audit. The same

may not be picked up year after year so that the element of "luck" is eliminated.

Salaried persons without any other taxable income need not be required to file regular returns of income. Copy of certificate of tax deduction by the employers may be considered adequate with a solemn affirmation by the salaried person concerned that he has no other source of taxable income.

A case of concealment may be opened at any time but the department must have concrete evidence for doing so. The gist of such evidence must be communicated in writing to the tax payer at the time of re-opening the case.

Prescribed documentary evidence of payment of advance tax may be accepted by the department without waiting for routine time-consuming communication from the deducting agencies. In case of fraudulent or forged documents the party concerned should face prosecution under the penal code.

Disputed tax demand may be stayed automatically till the

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CSO: 4600/123

OFFICIAL TALKS ABOUT FERTILIZER NEEDS, FINANCING

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 11 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

About 50 per cent of the country's requirements of phosphate and potash for a two-year period covering four crop seasons in the crop years 1987/88 and 1988/89 will be financed by the Asian Development Bank at a total cost of 150 million dollars in foreign exchange, it was learnt in Karachi.

According to an official source the bank has already approved a 150 million dollars loan for this programme. The remaining gap estimated at 850,000 metric tonnes on nutrients is expected to be financed under bilateral assistance and from the government's own resources.

The programme has three principal objects: to sustain the production trends of food grains, primarily wheat, rice and maize, and cash crops, to strengthen the fertilizer information system for monitoring the projected annual supply, production, buffer stocks, import requirements and distribution of fertilizers, and to support the Government in its efforts to improve efficiency in the agriculture sector, the operation and maintenance of irrigation system and in the marketing and distribution of imported fertilizer.

With the financing of the Asian Bank, 645,000 metric tonnes of diamonium phosphate and 140,000 metric tonnes of sulphate of potassium, having an equivalent nutrient content of about 482,000 metric tonnes will be imported.—PPI.

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CSO: 4600/114

OVERSEAS PAKISTANI GROUP PLANS CHEMICAL PLANT

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 12 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] A group of Overseas Pakistanis is planning to set up a 1.5 billion U.S. dollar chemical plant in Punjab capable of manufacturing PVC and allied products and a four-man delegation is arriving in Karachi from London today to conduct negotiations with the Federal Government about the project.

The plans for establishing the plant are at an advanced stage, and the project has already been sanctioned by the Pakistan Government, according to informed sources here.

President of the U.K - Pakistan Overseas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, London, Yaqub Ali, is involved in the scheme, and is scheduled to arrive here today from London at the head of a four-member delegation to discuss the project as well as matters connected with investments in their home country by Pakistanis working abroad.

The 1.5 billion dollars basic chemical and PVC manufacturing plant will have a 30,000 ton per year manufacturing capacity on completion, and is designed to turn out PVC products and caustic soda, chlorine gas and industrial alcohol.

Ali, who has over the past 30

years built up a flourishing business concern in Scotland, will meet representatives of the federal and Punjab governments in Islamabad and Lahore during his forthcoming five-day visit to Pakistan and discuss details of the project with them.

Demands for tariff protection once the proposed plant is operational will figure in the talks.

The financing of the scheme is to be raised during talks with the Pakistan Banking Council.

In their discussions with Pakistan Government officials, Ali and his colleagues will also pinpoint difficulties facing emigrant Pakistanis who want to invest in their home country.

In his capacity as President of the U.K - Pakistan Overseas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, London, Yaqub Ali is expected to discuss bilateral trade between Pakistan and Britain and ways and means of increasing the annual volume.

Talks on these questions are to be held with the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry during Ali's visit here.

Ali will address a Press conference at the Karachi Press Club at 4.00 p.m. today.—APP

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CSO: 4600/114

NEW ELECTORAL ROLLS SAID READY

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 11 Jan 87 p 3

[Text] The Election Commission of Pakistan is making arrangements for the publication of the new electoral rolls, which list 47.7 million voters, 13 million more than 1979 voters.

Disclosing this during an informal meeting with newsmen in Karachi yesterday Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat said the 47.7 million voters named in the new electoral rolls represented 57 per cent of the country's total population.

He said the work on preparation of new electoral rolls was started on March 31, 1986 and the manuscript of the new rolls was now ready for printing. He said the Election Commission has initiated discussions with the Printing Corporation of Pakistan regarding publication of the rolls, and the aim is to have them published by September this year at the latest.

He said for the first time since 1957 the price of copies of the electoral rolls has been raised from 25 paisa to Rs. 2 per page.

Replying to a question he said that two volumes of the Election Commission's report on the general election of 1985 have been published. The remaining one volume will also be published shortly.

Justice S.A. Nusrat, while replying to an other question said that the turnout of voters during the 1985 general elections was 54 per cent for National Assembly and 57 per cent for the provincial assemblies. "This was a very satisfactory figure as compared to the turnout percentages in advanced countries of Europe.

APP adds:

Noting that the Election Commission depended on provincial government personnel to prepare electoral rolls (under the Commission's overall supervision), he said concerned Deputy Commissioners had been asked to investigate and take action against government employees found guilty of malpractices in finalising the voters' lists.

This action could include suspension and even dismissal from service, he added.

He could not say whether any political party had been involved in falsification of the electoral rolls which had been cancelled.

The Chief Election Commissioner went on to say the new electoral lists could be used in the forthcoming local body polls, though it would take around two months after their publication for the provincial governments to split them up local constituency-wise.

He also said during a recent tour of European states appreciation for the conduct of the 1985 general elections in Pakistan had been voiced in all the countries visited by him.

Teams headed by Deputy Election Commissioners had toured Sanghar, Nawabshah and Jacobabad in Sind and the Nasirabad-Kutchi area of Baluchistan to probe complaints and their final report was at present being formulated.

Serious irregularities in the compilation of the new lists in the Duki-Sinjawi sub-division of Loralai district in Baluchistan and Battagram

tehsil, Manshera district, in NWFP had led to the cancellation of the electoral lists in both areas, he added.

The C.E.C. explained that he had initiated suo motto action on his own initiative after receiving complaints about the preparation of the new electoral lists in these two areas.

The new lists involved 100,000 voters in each of the above two regions.

Mr. Justice Nusrat said new voters' lists for both these areas had already been prepared.

Answering another question, Mr. Justice Nusrat said a total of 56 petitions had been filed in Sind province in the aftermath of the 1985 provincial and National Assembly polls and of these 41 had been disposed off, leaving 15 still pending.

Figures for the other three provinces were not immediately available.

He said statistics for the 1985 polls showed that on an average, the time taken for voters to cast their ballots after entering the polling booths was one voter per minute.

Each polling station included 1,500 voters on its' lists. If it was deemed necessary to increase the number of polling in the coming 1990 elections this will be done by the Election Commission, he added.—APP.

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CSO: 4600/114

INCREASE IN 1986 EXPORTS REPORTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 12 Jan 87 p 8

[Text]

Exports from Pakistan during December 1986 amounted to Rs 5,599.6 million as against Rs 4,168.8 million in November 1986 and Rs 4,676.7 million during December 1985, showing an increase of 34.3 per cent over November, 1986 and 19.7 per cent over December, 1985.

According to provisional figures issued by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, exports during July-December, 1986, totalled Rs 27,673.5 million, as against 22,262.5 million during the corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 24.3 per cent.

Main items of exports during December 1986 were cotton yarn (Rs 998.7 million); raw cotton (Rs 500.0 million); ready-made garments (Rs 491.1 million); cotton fabrics (Rs 462.4 million); leather (Rs 353.6 million); Rice (Rs 273.7 million); followed by hosiery,

towels, synthetic fabrics towels, carpets and carpeting, fish and fish preparations, tarpaulin and canvas goods, 'guar' and 'guar' products and fruits.

Imports into Pakistan during this month amounted to Rs 6,523.2 million (provisional) as against Rs 7,782.8 million in November 1986, and Rs 8,528.3 million during December 1985, showing a decrease of 16.2 per cent over November 1986 and of 23.5 per cent over December 1985.

Imports during July-December 1986 totalled Rs 42,079.1 million (provisional), showing a decrease of 4.3 per cent over imports of Rs 43,964.4 million during the corresponding period of last year.

Of the main items, imports during December 1986 were crude oil (Rs 73.5 million), fertilizer (Rs 352.9 million) tea (Rs 220.2 million), and edible oil (Rs 65.1 million).—APP

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CSO: 4600/114

REVISED KALABAGH DAM PLANS SENT TO PROVINCES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 13 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] The redesigned project of Kalabagh Dam has been communicated to the provincial governments by the Federal Government for their opinion.

This was confirmed by Muzam-mal Qureshi, Sind Secretary for Irrigation, while talking to BUSINESS RECORDER at Karachi yesterday.

He said the features of the redesigned project were almost the same as were in the earlier plan. However he refused to divulge the contents of the new document and declined comments on the redesigned project at this stage, as, he said "it is still under the examination of the Sind Government".

It may be mentioned that the earlier design was rejected by the NWFP Government while the Sind Government also expressed its strong reservations over the said project. Besides, various influential quarters in Sind, including the Sind Chamber of Agriculture, had termed the further construction of any dam in that area as against the interests of Sind.

In the light of this reaction, WAPDA was asked to revise the design of the project.

In this regard, it is said a session was held between the members of Cabinet Committee on big dams and the representatives of the NWFP Government in Karachi the latter had enumerated a number of objections on the earlier project.

According to informed circles, WAPDA prepared four alternative projects for the construction of Kalabagh Dam.

Of late, the Cabinet Committee concerned is learnt to have endorsed one of these four alternative projects, which have now been sent to the Provincial Governments for comments.

According to reports, the height of the dam has been proposed to be reduced as per the resigned project to satisfy the NWFP Government. Besides, it is said it has also been assured that the said project would not be utilised for irrigation purposes in order to allay Sind's fears.

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CSO: 4600/114

COMMENTARY VIEWS, FAULTS ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 13 Jan 86 p 2

[Text]

Conservation and optimum utilisation of so important and scarce a resource as energy, is an imperative. As such, the establishment of the Pakistan Energy Conservation Centre for "initiating, catalysing and coordinating the implementation of energy conservation programmes," may be termed as a step in the right direction. According to official sources, the centre will be administered by a council which will have the Prime Minister as its Patron-in-chief and would include the Ministers, for planning and development as chairman and the Petroleum and Natural Resources as co-Chairman, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Council, Secretaries of the Ministries of Agriculture, Communications, Finance, Industries, Housing, Petroleum and Natural Resources, Plan-

ning, Production, Railways, Science and Technology, Water and Power, Chief Secretaries of Provincial governments, Managing Director of the National Energy Conservation Centre (Enercon), as Member Secretary. One of the members of the council is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Council. This might have been causing some confusion in the minds of our readers. They may ask; what advisory committee? The answer is that the Council has been authorised to appoint "Advisory Committee or Committees as may be required from time to time." It means that at any given time there would be as many as three or even more bodies to advise on energy conservation. These bodies would include the Centre itself, its managing body, namely, the council and the council's Advisory Committee or Commit-

tees! The official announcement has defined "energy conservation" as "efficient production and use of domestic or imported energy." All this sounds so good and impressive.

Impressive it may be, but definitely not good, for we would be wasting considerable quantities of other resources to conserve energy. Even if it is taken that Secretaries, Chief Secretaries and other officials would be ex-officio members of the Council, their travelling and other expenses, would be quite considerable. Besides, the advisory committee or committees would also incur expenditure. Even in view of saving a more precious resource, that is energy, these expenses are justified, what about the wastage of time which is bound to occur by the committee or committees to assess the situation, prepare the reports, submit-

ting them to the council. More time would then be spent on the assessment of these reports by the Council, finalising them and passing them on to the Enercon for action. Is it not a typical bureaucratic way of doing things!

Besides, conservation does not only mean "efficient production and use" of energy. It also means prevention of wastages and wasteful uses of this very scarce resource of the country thereby adding to its quantitative availability for gainful and optimum uses. Increasing the supply of energy by "efficient production" involves both long term and short term planning and execution. This is being done by specialised agencies. The first and the immediate

requirement is the prevention of losses and wastages that occur not only in its distribution but also in its uses. Natural gas which is actually a raw material, is being freely used for cooking food! Is it not a wasteful use?

Some experts are of the view that burning is for the purpose of generating electricity, is a wasteful use while our coal deposits are neglected. Then electricity itself which is so scarce that many of our development projects are left unimplemented mainly due to the non-availability of power. Yet, almost one-fourth of the total power supply goes into what is commonly called the "transmission losses"! Its wasteful uses are so glaring that one sees them every day and

everywhere, yet nothing is done to prevent them. Conservation has to be done in these spheres. Measures taken to prevent the wastages and wasteful uses, we are sure, would go a long way in relieving the present situation and augmenting supplies for productive purposes. This calls for quick decisions and prompt implementation. Let the job be handled by one powerful agency comprising experts from every related field. It should assess the situation, take decisions and implement them without loss of time, for time is also a factor that has got to be conserved. We would, as such, urge the Government to give a second thought to what it has been doing in this all-important sector of energy.

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CSO: 4600/114

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT CODE OF ETHICS FOR PRESS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Jan 27: The National Assembly was informed Tuesday that code of Ethics for the Press was formulated for its functioning in accordance with the canons of decency, principles of professional conduct and precepts of freedom and responsibility.

This was stated by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Qazi Abdul Majid Abid in reply to a question by Shah Balaeghuddin during the Question Hour.

The Minister said that the code of Ethics for newspapers was mutually discussed, agreed and then signed by the representatives of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in March, 1980. The preparation of the code was not assigned to a single individual.

The Minister further explained the code of ethics envisaged that the profession of journalism which is a public institution should not be used as an instrument to serve anti-social ends, or interests which are not compatible with this profession, or which tend to undermine the ideology of the nation and security of the state.

The code of ethics for Press, the Minister said included:-

— The right of the individual to protection of his reputation and integrity must be respected and exposure of and comments on the private lives of individuals must be avoided except where it affects the public interest.

— Presentation of news items and comments on events and airing of legitimate grievance should be fair and objective, and there should be no wilful departure from fact, headlines should not distort the content of the news, off-the record briefing should not be published, and embargoes on release dates of news, articles and pictures, should be rigorously observed.

— The journalist should be entitled to protect his source of information revealed in confidence.

— All paid commercial announcements, articles or advertisements should be specified as such.

— No newspaper shall accept in any form or shape any financial and pecuniary advantage or obligation from or on behalf of any foreign country, concern, or agency. This does not apply to paid advertisements appearing as such.

— The personnel of the Press must never accept any form of bribe or permit personal interest to influence their sense of justice and impartiality.

— The Press shall refrain from publishing anything likely to bring into hatred or contempt the head of any friendly state.

— Justified corrections or denials sent as a result of any incorrect information published by newspapers, periodicals or news agencies should be published within the shortest possible period of time so as to effectively eliminate the impression created by the original publication which necessitated

the issuance of a correction or denial.

— The Press shall not publish news or comment, photograph or advertisements which may undermine the security of the state or solidarity of the nation or its ideology.

— The Press shall refrain from involving the defence forces in politics and offer only fair comment on its performance and conduct.

— In reporting proceedings of Parliament and provincial Assemblies, such portions of the proceedings as the Speaker may have ordered to be expunged from the records of the Assembly shall not be published and every effort shall be made to give the readers a fair report of what has been said by all sections of Parliament and provincial Assemblies.

— In reporting the proceedings of courts of law, care will be taken not to suppress the version or arguments of the contending parties.

— The following are to avoid any form of publication such as articles, news items, photographs and advertisements:-

- ... Immorality or obscenity,
- ... Vulgar and derogatory expressions against individuals, institutions or groups,
- ... Allegations known to be false and malicious against individuals, institutions, groups, newspapers and other publications
- ... Arousing of sectarian, parochial or provincial passions and prejudices and class hatred,
- ... Glamorisation of criminals,
- ... Incitement to violence.

Minister for Food and Agriculture, Ibrahim Baluch told the House that the government had taken a number of steps for providing employment opportunities in the country which would benefit the returnee Pakistanis also.

In response to a question asked by Malik Muhammad Aslam Kacheela, the Minister explained that the Sixth Five-Year Plan envisaged creation of 3.32 million new job opportunities.

These opportunities, he said would provide employment to the majority of employment seekers in the country including overseas Pakistanis returning from abroad. To facilitate their economic rehabilitation. He said the procedure for investment in approved projects and import of permissible machinery and equipment had been simplified.

There is no requirement of sanction for import of machinery and equipment upto the value of Rs. 50 million under on-repatriable investment scheme. An investment centre has been set up in U.K. to guide overseas Pakistanis for investment in industrial projects in Pakistan.

Pakistan embassies in Saudi Arabia, UAE and West Ger-

many has also been authorised to issue licences for import of permissible machinery under non-repatriable investment scheme, the Minister said.

Mr. Baluch told the questioner that the return of workers from the Gulf countries depends on the economic situation in these countries. Illegal emigrants, however, he added, are deported forcibly and all efforts are made to ensure that no illegal emigration takes place.

The Minister of State for Railway Nisar Mohammad Khan told the House that as a result of the measures taken by the Railway authorities the menace of unauthorised hawking in trains and railway premises has been curbed to a considerable extent.

Responding to a question by Malik Muhammad Aslam Kacheela the Minister said the Special Railway Magistrates posted at the Divisional Headquarters at Peshawar, Cantt, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, Sukkur, Karachi, and Quetta also fine the unauthorised hawkers detected in trains and at platforms, besides raids in trains by Railway Intelligence Police to detect such hawkers.

The Minister for Informati-

on and Broadcasting Qazi Abdul Majid Abid told the House that PTV will establish two re-broadcast stations at Khan Mentarzal and Kalat during 1987 to increase the limits of the Quetta TV transmission.

Replying to a question by Liaquat Baluch, he said the TV programmes televised from Quetta centre were seen in Quetta valley within an area of 2600 square kilometers. The booster at Ghazaband covers the area of Pishin, Gulistan, Saranan, Baleli, Kuchalak and Qila Abdullah, while the booster at Lak Pass provides coverage to Mastung, Manguchar, Mandie Haji and Khad Kucha, he said. The booster at Sibi provides coverage to Sibi and Dhadhar, he added.

The Minister for Food and Agriculture, Muhammad Ibrahim Baluch said that the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation sent 6128 persons in 1985 and 4566 persons in 1986.

To a question by Sheikh Mohammad Rashid, the Minister said criterion for selection varied according to job requirements indicated by foreign employers.-APP

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CSO: 4600/123

BRIEFS

10TH CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL--Islamabad, Jan 28--Justice Minister Wasim Sajjad today introduced the Constitution (tenth amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill seeks to amend articles 54, 55 and 61 of the Constitution so as to reduce the minimum number of working days of the National Assembly to 130, restoring it to the position under the Constitution as originally enacted. The Bill also provides that the quorum required for a sitting of the National Assembly and Senate shall be one-sixth of the total membership. The Bill, when enacted would also enhance the number of days for which the National Assembly is adjourned and which will count as working days from two to four. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Jan 87 p 1] /9317

POLITICAL PRISONERS' HEALTH--Lahore, Jan 28--A 4-member delegation of the Political Prisoners Release and Relief Committee having visited the political prisoners in Central Jail Faisalabad had demanded immediate release of the said prisoners many of whom were reportedly in bad health. The delegation comprising Liaqat Warriach, Sh. Mohammad Javed, Masood Bari and Riaz Jan visited Rafi Malik, Pervaiz Iqbal Masih, Riaz Sajid, Riaz Shahid, former Maj Sadiq and former Squadron Leader Shehzad on Tuesday and said the former three were suffering from serious disease requiring proper treatment outside the jail. As alleged the said prisoners sentenced by the military courts to life imprisonment were being subjected to hard labour in the jail. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Jan 87 p 6] /9317

CSO: 4600/123

DAILY AGAINST 'DIRECT TALKS' WITH TAMIL GROUP

BK081525 Colombo WEEKEND in English 28 Dec 86 p 12

["Momus" commentary: "Walking Into Tiger Trap"]

[Text] Suddenly, 'direct talks' with terrorists seems to be much in vogue. After two years of India acting as the mediator between the Lankan Government and the terrorists, the hard core LTTE [The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] whose intransigence it was that prevented a breakthrough and a solution, has expressed its willingness to talk directly with the Government of Sri Lanka, provided 'shunned' India gives her blessings to the move.

For the LTTE such a move would be heavensent. To negotiate directly with an official delegation from the Government of Lanka would enhance their status to that of the legitimate representatives of the Tamil people. To accord them that honour would be to cleanse them of their bloody crimes and their short but brutal past; to afford them that recognition would be to enable them to sit at that same high table talking terms of peace as equals. And in accordance with the terrorists grand design such a recognition of legitimacy would do 'nicely' when it comes to their expected plans of declaring a separate state of Eelam in the near future.

Furthermore, it would also strengthen the LTTE's claims to power vis-a-vis the other terrorist groups, when it can be shown that the only credible power group is the one which the Sri Lankan government itself has recognised as equal.

How such talks would affect the image and status of the Lankan government is quite another matter. Whether it would bear any fruit or whether our eager and sometimes desperate attempts to settle this ethnic crisis would only enable the terrorists to pull off another propaganda coup, has to be seen.

A government spokesman was yesterday quoted in the media as saying that India has not been able to sell anything to the Tamil groups and that direct talks with the LTTE had to be considered.

What exactly was India selling to the tigers if it wasn't the Sri Lankan Government's peace package which contained the setting up of provincial council and a

greater devolution of power to the northern people. The main stumbling block of this proposal was the Government's refusal to allow any merger of the provinces. The terrorists, on the other hand, refused to budge from their position, demanding the right to merge the northern and eastern provinces and to establish a linguistic state in--what they called--their traditional homelands.

Thus if the government of India is unable to persuade the terrorists--to whom she has given refuge on her soil and with whose support the terrorists carry out their activities--to forego the merger demand and accept the government's generous offer, it is hard to believe that Mr Vincent Perera the MP from Yatiyantota would be able to sweet talk the Tiger King Prabhakaran to accept it.

If the LTTE is not willing to listen to mighty India, what hope does Mr Vincent Perera have that they would listen to him. What hope indeed that the terrorists would lay down their arms, forget their merger demand and seek peace because a lion from Yatiyantota had chosen to roar.

To snub India and do away with her mediatory role at this juncture and instead talk to the LTTE on equal terms would be to play into the terrorist hands and come a cropper.

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CSO: 4600/116

TAMIL RADIO SCORES MILITANTS, GOVERNMENT

BK261116 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 22 Jan 87

[News Commentary]

[Text] At the news conference held for domestic and foreign correspondents in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said the Sri Lankan Jayewardene government has failed to honor the assurances given to the Indian Government on its efforts to solve the problems of the people of Tamil Eelam. This is the first news conference held by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi this year. At this conference, correspondents were not hesitant to raise questions on the problems of the people of Tamil Eelam. Answering correspondents' questions Prime Minister Gandhi said the Sri Lankan Jayewardene government has not taken steps to find a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. He noted that the Sri Lankan Government submitted a set of new proposals on 19 December last year and within a couple of days it said that there were difficulties in implementing them. Gandhi added, what the Sri Lankan Government plans to do is still a question. He also remarked, as the Sri Lankan Government is not firm in its stand, he could not speak about its proposals to anyone.

The Voice of Tamil Eelam says that the unsound, unwise policies of the Sri Lankan Government and the leaders of Tamil Eelam on the problems of the people of Tamil Eelam are the cause prolonging this problem. The turmoil in this land and foreign intervention can be ended only when both sides display adequate political maturity. Until then, the Indian mediation and help cannot be dispensed with.

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CSO: 4600/116

SRI LANKA

DELHI: 11 KILLED AS MILITANTS, SECURITY FORCES CLASH

BK090311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 11 persons have been killed so far in a 2-day confrontation between government forces and militants in Jaffna peninsula. Six of those killed are civilians, and five militants. Our Colombo correspondent Plabon Majumder reports that three civilians including an 8-year old boy died yesterday [when] mortar shells struck a Muslim area of Jaffna town. Another fisherman was killed in shelling at Thondamannar. One feature of yesterday's operation was that the government forces tried to come out of their camps and secure parameters at a number of places in Jaffna peninsula. Intermittent shelling was reported from the army camps at Elephant Pass, Navatkuli and Thondamannar camps.

Meanwhile, the Council of Hindu Organizations yesterday appealed to all parties to resume negotiations and resist from creating a situation which will adversely affect the peace process. The president of the organization, Mr Duraiswamy, called upon the government to lift the ban on the supply of fuel to the north.

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CSO: 4600/116

SRI LANKA

SECURITY FORCES 13 JAN SUCCESSES REPORTED

BK150849 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0800 GMT 15 Jan 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 15 (LANKA PUWATH)--One soldier identified at L.B. Gamini was killed on the spot when terrorists exploded a landmine at Uiyankulam in Mannar District yesterday, the media center in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

In another incident security forces captured 15 terrorists including two members of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and three PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] members in three separate operations in the Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Meanwhile an area leader of the LTTE identified as Ganesha Moorthy was shot dead by the security forces when they attacked a LTTE hideout at Vandaramullai in Batticaloa District yesterday morning. [Some] 12 hand grenades, 2 out board motors, one radio, 24 62 mm ammunition [as received], one compass and a large stock of medicines and LTTE literature were recovered from the scene.

In a separate incident another terrorist leader identified as Veluppullai of the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] group was killed when security forces attacked a group of terrorists who were [word indistinct] felling timber at the natural reserve at Karadiyanaaru in eastern Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

In Jaffna, on Tuesday night one terrorist belonging to the LTTE group was killed in an exchange of fire between the security forces and the terrorists outside the Jaffna Fort in northern Sri Lanka. One claymore mine, two hand grenades and one colt pistol with 3 magazines were recovered from the scene.

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CSO: 4600/116

SRI LANKA

LTTE COMMANDER, OTHERS KILLED 23 JAN

BK241032 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0923 GMT 24 Jan 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (LANKA PUWATH)--Four separatist terrorists, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed yesterday when government troops effectively repulsed a terrorist attack at Kalliveddy, Trincomalee, eastern Sri Lanka.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that during the shoot out two servicemen, Lance Corporal Nimal Gamini and Private B G Dissanayake were also killed.

Among the dead terrorists were the commander of the LTTE gang and area leader Ganesh's second in command Naeson Nojman Fredrick of the fourth batch of foreign trained terrorists.

Another leader Kanagarajah was also killed while four other terrorists were seriously wounded.

Last Friday morning terrorists attempted to open fire at fishermen of Kokila, Trincomalee District but fled when security forces opened fire.

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CSO: 4600/116

INDIAN PAPER VIEWS RESPONSE TO PROVINCE MERGER IDEA

BK081730 Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Dec 86 p 7

[Text] Colombo, Dec 29--The 'merger issue--a stumbling block to a settlement of Sri Lanka's ethnic problem, with the Government firmly rejecting the minority Tamils' demand for the merger of the predominantly Tamil Northern Province and the largely cosmopolitan Eastern Province--has generated less enthusiasm in the east.' A UNI correspondent who met a cross section of the people on a tour of the predominantly Tamil and Muslim districts of Batticaloa and Amparai gained the impression that both communities were willing for any settlement that safeguarded their interests and security.

Not against present structure: Local leaders of both communities welcomed a reported proposal for the creation of a separate Eastern Provincial Council, excising the Sinhalese areas of Amparai district to ensure a Tamil-majority province, though Muslim leaders said they were not averse to continuance of the present structure of the province.

Informed sources here said Colombo, which had agreed to the proposal that had emerged during the talks the Minister of State, for External Affairs Mr Natwar Singh and the Minister of State for Personnel, Mr P. Chidambaram, had with the Sri Lanka President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene in the third week of December, had since backed out on the ground that it was not 'practical'.

Muslim leaders oppose it: Local Muslim leaders were, however, emphatic in their opposition to the merger proposal as also the creation of a separate Muslim province with its base at Amparai.

Mr M.A.C.A. Rahaman, vice-president of the Eravur Citizens' Committee and a supporter of the ruling United National Party, said the Tamils and Muslims spoke the same language and had common customs. Though the Muslims were concentrated in some places, their lands were in the midst of Tamil areas and thus indivisible. "Territory-wise, the Tamils and Muslims are linked and interdependent".

Mr A.M. Shamsuddin, the chief organiser of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party for Amparai district, alleged that the separate Muslim Council proposal had emerged from the Colombo Muslim leadership. They have no base here and do not know what is happening here', he said.

The Muslims in the East had held a number of seminars on the issue and the consensus was that a separate Muslim Provincial Council was disadvantageous to the community. They were also opposed to the merger of the Eastern Province with the North, as it would reduce the percentage of the Muslims from the present 32 in the Eastern Province to 18 percent in a combined northern and Eastern Province.

Ordinary Muslims, however, seemed to differ on this issue. Mr Abul Hassan, a restaurant owner, said he was not against the merger. Both the Tamils and the Muslims spoke the same language and had a common culture and they could live together. Barring some recent incidents, the two communities had always lived in harmony, he said.

Fear of being swamped: A Tamil leader, who did not wish to be identified, said the demand for the merger had come from Jaffna because of the fear of further colonisation of the Eastern Province by the Sinhalese. There was a real fear among the Tamils that they would be pushed out of the province as most of the command areas under the accelerated Mahaveli irrigation-cum-hydel project were located in this fertile province. Once this fear was removed, the merger demand would be a 'dead issue'.

He said certain disturbing trends in the Jaffna peninsula, like the elimination of all rival militant groups by the Liberations Tigers of Tamil Eelam had also prompted the Eastern Province Tamils to reconsider their earlier total support for the merger of the two provinces. The fact had not been lost on the Eastern Province Tamils that 80 percent of the cadres of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the latest target of LTTE attack, came from there, he said.

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SRI LANKA

MARXISTS REPORTED COMBINING EFFORTS AIMED AT DESTABILIZATION

BK241028 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0904 GMT 24 Jan 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 24 (LANKA PUWATH)--Police investigations have revealed that several extreme Marxist groups have joined hands in an effort to carry out an intense subversive campaign with a view to attempting to disrupt law and order situation in the country.

A senior police official told LANKA PUWATH today that the subversives were liasing closely with each other with a veiw to destabilising the law and order situation in the country.

One of those being currently investigated is a certain official of a Marxist political party.

Meanwhile, the police official said certain southern subversive Marxist elements who had joined hands with northern Marxist terrorists were now in hiding abroad according to information.

Sri Lanka is one of the most vibrant Third World democracies and concerted efforts are being made to destabilise the lawfully elected government, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

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CSO: 4600/116

SRI LANKA

SRI LANKAN, MPR FOREIGN MINISTERS EXCHANGE GREETINGS

BK031221 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Sri Lanka and the Mongolian People's Republic completed 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on the 1st of February. The minister of foreign affairs, Shahul Hameed, in a message to his Mongolian counterpart said that Sri Lanka and Mongolia have enjoyed close and friendly relations as two Asian nations with common objective of promoting peace, friendship, and cooperation.

The Mongolian foreign minister, Mangalyn Dugersuren, in his reply has expressed the hope that the relations which have developed successfully between Sri Lanka and Mongolia will be expanded further.

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